Table of Contents

Executive Summary .................................................................................................................. 3
Basic Biographical Background ............................................................................................ 4
Ethical and Business Issues ................................................................................................... 5
  Super PACs .......................................................................................................................... 5
  Military Career ..................................................................................................................... 8
  Former Businesses ............................................................................................................... 10
  Santa Barbara ...................................................................................................................... 21
  Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation ............................................................... 23
  Housing ............................................................................................................................... 35
Polarizing Political Insider Before Becoming Secretary of the Interior ................................. 38
Land and Related Issues Before Becoming Interior Secretary ............................................... 47
  Climate Change .................................................................................................................. 75
Executive Summary

Ryan Zinke, a politician from Northwest Montana and Santa Barbara, California, has climbed the political ladder in a short nine years. Zinke began his career as a Montana state senator in 2009, was elected to Congress in 2014 and currently serves as Trump’s Secretary of the Interior. From his first foray into politics to this day, Zinke has always billed himself a ‘Teddy Roosevelt’ Republican. However, during his time in public office, he has repeatedly acted on behalf of the same special interests that assisted his political ascension, actions that have been contrary to many of the values and positions he claims to hold.

When Zinke moved from his home state of California to run for office in Montana, he drove a hybrid Toyota Prius, received an endorsement by a Montana-based conservation group and even signed a letter to then-President Obama asking for swift action on climate change.

As the political winds and opportunities shifted, so did Zinke. He sought the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor but lost in the Republican primary when the ticket he signed onto failed to connect with base voters. Zinke didn’t stay away from politics long. Just two years later, after his attempts to start several fledgling businesses failed, Zinke turned his focus back to politics and ran for Montana’s sole congressional seat.

During his congressional campaign, Zinke began collecting large donations from special interests such as Fidelity National Financial Inc., and extractive industries, including coal giants like Cloud Peak and Arch Coal, and oil corporations like Oasis Petroleum and Halliburton. He’s raised over one million dollars from special interests, many of which profit off of public lands. Zinke’s record and rhetoric quickly began to shift away from his professed ‘Roosevelt’ persona and he adopted very pro-special interest positions.

President Trump tapped Zinke to run his Interior Department shortly after his inauguration. During his scandal-plagued tenure, Zinke has been the subject of some 17 investigations that have ranged from abuse of taxpayer funds to Hatch Act violations to using public resources to chase a sweetheart land deal between his family’s foundation and the chairman of oil-conglomerate Halliburton. This investigation has been transferred to the Justice Department and is still pending as of December 2018.

In addition, Zinke oversaw the largest reduction of public land protections in history by recommending President Trump reduce the boundaries of national monuments. Zinke also gutted the most substantial habitat management plan in history by overhauling plans to keep the imperiled sage grouse off the endangered species list. Zinke and his political cronies have also:

• threatened and reorganized career employees to force early retirements;
• altered scientific reports;
• opened vast swaths of public lands to extractive resources;
• threatened national parks with privatization; failed to fund public access programs;
• limited public input on critical decisions and infected the Interior Department with a culture of corruption that has become the hallmark of Zinke’s tenure.

This book details and cites Zinke’s past and current positions and his actions since entering public life in order to hold him accountable for his political scandals and failed management of America’s public lands.

Basic Biographical Background

Ryan Zinke was born on November 1, 1961, "in Bozeman where his parents were attending college, and he grew up in Whitefish," MT. He "attended the University of Oregon on an athletic scholarship, played four years for the Oregon Ducks football team, and graduated [in 1984] with a Bachelor's of Science in Geology." He also claims to have an MBA from National University and a MS from the University of San Diego.

Ryan Zinke is married to the former Lolita "Lola" Hand.

Ryan Zinke "joined the U.S. Navy. His active duty "military career began in 1985 when he graduated from Officer Candidate School and attended SEAL training [BUDS class 136]," and ended more than two decades later. "He retired from active duty [in] 2008 after serving 23 years as a US Navy SEAL."

"After retiring [from the military], Zinke formed two businesses, including one that uses advanced technology in industries such as aerospace, natural resources and national security." He was "the CEO of Continental Divide International, a business development consulting company," from 2008 to 2014, and "CEO of On Point Montana, a security consulting firm." He is also a part owner of Double Tap, LLC, in Flathead County, MT.

Continental Divide International was a property management firm. Zinke and/or this business own numerous rental properties in Whitefish and Kalispell, which are both in Flathead County, and he owns property in San Diego County, CA. His wife may own property in Santa Barbara County, CA.

In 2008 Ryan Zinke "was elected to the Montana Senate...and served four years," and in 2012 he unsuccessfully "ran for lieutenant governor on the ticket headed by Neil Livingstone."

In 2012, Zinke "helped form and chaired a super PAC known as Special Operations for America [SOFA], which ran an independent expenditure campaign against President Barack Obama's re-election."

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, was elected to represent Montana's at-large district in the US Congress. Days before getting elected to Congress he filed paperwork to create his leadership PAC, the Supporting, Electing American Leaders PAC [SEAL PAC]. [SEAL PAC Statement of Organization];
Ryan Zinke's LinkedIn Page; Ryan Zinke's Campaign Internet Site; Charles Johnson, "Zinke touts leadership experience in U.S. House race," The Missoulian, 09/28/14; Various Financial Disclosures; LexisNexis People Search]

Ethical and Business Issues

Super PACs

Ryan Zinke created a presidential super PAC in 2012. In 2013, it transitioned to congressional campaigns. Zinke resigned from the super PAC on September 30, 2013, and in October 2013 the super PAC started spending money to support Zinke's congressional campaign. After the super PAC spent $250,000 in support of Zinke's campaign, Zinke made the treasurer of the super PAC his congressional chief of staff.

Ryan Zinke "created the Special Operations for America [SOFA] super PAC to back Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign." SOFA moved on to back "candidates who support the military — and their first candidate" was Ryan Zinke. "Zinke resigned from SOFA PAC" on September 30, 2013. Starting in October 2013 "when Zinke announced his candidacy, SOFA PAC...spent more than" $250,000 "on television, radio and Internet advertising in support of his campaign." In January 2015, Ryan Zinke made the treasurer of SOFA his congressional chief of staff. [Matt Volz, "GOP's Zinke reaps benefit of PAC he founded, but is it legal?" The Missoulian, 02/16/14; Charles Johnson, “Democrats blast Zinke's pick of former super PAC treasurer as chief of staff,” Billings Gazette, 01/07/15; Molly Redden, “GOP Congressional Candidate Using Campaign Money Scheme Pioneered by...Stephen Colbert,” Mother Jones, 11/01/13; and Troy Carter, “Zinke denies super PAC coordination,” Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 07/31/14]

Ryan Zinke said on television that he was not paid by this super PAC. That statement is not true.

Ryan Zinke, in July 2012, "told Sean Hannity he wasn't taking a paycheck from SOFA. But the super-PAC's FEC filings suggest otherwise. From late July 2012 to March 2013, the super-PAC paid $26,317.11 to Continental Divide International [CDI] for 'fundraising consulting' and 'strategy consulting.' Zinke's LinkedIn page says he is the CEO of Continental Divide International. The company's purpose is unclear; a public records search shows that both Zinke and his wife are officers. In addition to the consulting fees, SOFA reimbursed Continental Divide International more than $3,000 for unspecified expenses and paid for Zinke to travel to the Republican National Committee in Tampa and the Conservative Political Action Conference in Denver, as well as trips to Las Vegas, Dallas, and San Antonio." [Molly Redden, “GOP Congressional Candidate Using Campaign Money Scheme Pioneered by...Stephen Colbert,” Mother Jones, 11/01/13]

During the 2013-14 election cycle, Ryan Zinke's campaign and this super PAC used "at least six" of the same vendors and on "eight occasions, the Zinke campaign and...PAC paid those..."
companies on the same day," even though coordination between a campaign and super PAC is not legal.

In 2014, Ryan Zinke and SOFA used "at least six" of the same vendors, and on "eight occasions, the Zinke campaign and Special Operations for America [SOFA] PAC paid those companies on the same day," according to campaign finance reports. Federal election law bans coordination between candidates and super PACs. In March of 2014 "the Campaign Legal Center and the organization Democracy 21 filed Federal Election Commission complaints against Zinke, alleging illegal coordination with the SOFA PAC." [Troy Carter, "Zinke denies super PAC coordination," Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 07/31/14]

"All these revelations" made it "difficult to tell where" this super PAC ended and Zinke's "campaign – not to mention his personal finances," began. The super PAC paid more than $35,000 to Zinke, his daughter, and a business of his.

SOFA paid Ryan Zinke's daughter $2,500 in 2012. [Federal Election Commission Data; Veronica Stracqualursi and Lissette Rodriguez, "Ryan Zinke: Everything you need to know about the new Interior secretary," ABC NEWS, 03/01/17]

In November 2013 the Missoula Independent said, "between July 2012 and May 2013, SOFA disclosed payments to CDI to the tune of $34,757.73," with "three payments to CDI totaling $8,440.62...flagged as reimbursements for Zinke's trips to the Republican National Convention in Tampa, a Conservative Political Action Conference in Denver and several other out-of-state appearances," with "the remaining $26,317.11...paid for a mix of 'fundraising consulting' and 'strategy consulting.'"

"SOFA paid out [at least] $86,499.85...to Battle Plan Strategies, a New York company owned by SOFA treasurer Scott Hommel. Those expenditures were made for 'administrative consulting,' 'administration' and 'strategy consulting.'"

In 2013, most of SOFA's Internet site remained "dedicated to trumpeting the Zinke name."

"All these revelations make it increasingly difficult to tell where SOFA ends and Zinke's campaign – not to mention his personal finances – begins." ["ETC," The Missoulian, 11/07/13-11/14/13]

A board member and advisor to this super PAC insisted to a Tea Party group that he considered leading a military coup and said that if there's a coup attempt "he will be happy to lead it."

SOFA board member and advisor Paul Vallely insisted to a Tea Party group "that he doesn't want to see a revolution take place...but if a revolution does happen then he will be happy to lead it. Vallely reminisced about how he once discussed plans to 'surround the White House and surround the Capitol building' with 250,000 marines, adding that 'it's going to take physical
presence' to make elected officials heed their demands." He continued, "I don't want to be criticized for starting a revolution, but I'd certainly head it if we had to. We all love a good fight if it's worth it, right?" [Brian Tashman, "Paul Vallely Will Be Happy To Lead An Anti-Obama Revolution," Right Wing Watch, 01/27/14]

When Ryan Zinke ran this super PAC it ran "afoul of military regulations, according to representatives of the US Marine Corps and Air Force," for improperly using military insignias. The Department of Defense asked the super PAC "to stop using the insignia or face potential legal action."

SOFA, in 2012, used "part or all of the insignia of the Marines, Air Force, Navy, Army, and the US Special Operations Command on its website, Facebook, and Twitter pages," and as a result it ran "afoul of military regulations, according to representatives of the US Marine Corps and Air Force." Each "service branch's symbols are trademarked." Department of Defense Officials contacted SOFA to ask them to "them to stop using the insignia or face potential legal action."[Adam Weinstein, "Anti-Obama Group Caught Using US Military Logos Without Authorization," Mother Jones, 07/19/12]

Ryan Zinke's 2016 congressional campaign prominently used the Navy Special Warfare Insignia in violation of military policy.

In 2016, Ryan Zinke's campaign bus featured prominent usage of the Navy Special Warfare Insignia. [Navy Breast Insignia: Special Warfare Insignia, National Archives, accessed 12/03/18; Tweet by Ryan Zinke, 10/03/16, accessed 12/03/18; Tweet by Ryan Zinke, 05/26/16, accessed 12/03/18]

According to official Department of Defense policy, "members on active duty should not engage in partisan political activity, and...members not on active duty should avoid inferences that their political activities imply or appear to imply official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement." Additionally, "any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating [with] the Department of Defense...with a partisan political activity or is otherwise contrary to the spirit and intention of this Directive shall be avoided."

["Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," Department of Defense, accessed 12/03/18]

2012 Lieutenant Governor Race

In 2012, Ryan Zinke praised and ran for lieutenant governor of Montana on a ticket with gubernatorial candidate Neil Livingstone, who claims he "partied with pirates, been stalked by Nazis, and tried [unsuccessfully] to spring Moammar Qaddafi from Libya."

In 2012, Ryan Zinke ran for lieutenant governor of Montana on a ticket with gubernatorial candidate Neil Livingstone.
Neil Livingstone claims he "partied with pirates, been stalked by Nazis, and tried [unsuccessfully] to spring Moammar Qaddafi from Libya."

"According to his official campaign bio, Montana Republican gubernatorial candidate Neil Livingstone has, at various points during his illustrious career as a Washington-based security consultant, 'dined at gangster clubs in Moscow and in the back rooms of Georgian and Uzbek restaurants with members of the Russian Mafia'; 'been stalked by terrorists and Nazis in Argentina'; 'been paid in stacks of $100 bills by clients'; and held 'a business meeting with a six-and-half foot tall pink-eyed albino dressed in white from head-to-foot in a Miami-area motel with the peculiar distinction of having more 'floaters' in its pool than any other hospitality establishment in the U.S.'" Livingstone also said "he was on a mission...securing private planes to spy on a foreign country" when "he was on [a] yacht belonging to a...pirate whose other guests included numerous hookers." [Tim Murphy, "The Most Interesting Gubernatorial Candidate in the World," Mother Jones, 03/27/12; Matt Gouras, "Neil Livingstone: The Most Interesting Man in the World," Associated Press, 03/16/12]

In 2011, Ryan Zinke "said Livingstone is just the kind of leader" that Montana needed. Zinke added, "'we need someone who understands global markets'" and "'we need someone who has been in real business and not insurance business, but a real business that produces products.'" [Charles Johnson, "Gov candidate Livingstone taps Zinke as running mate," Helena Independent Record, 07/11/11]

**Military Career**

Ryan Zinke had "'transgressions'" in the Navy that hurt his military career, including "inappropriately using Navy travel funds for personal travel" and lying about it, claiming he was attempting "to set up SEAL training in Montana."

Ryan "Zinke left the SEALs under unclear circumstances." [Molly Redden, “GOP Congressional Candidate Using Campaign Money Scheme Pioneered by...Stephen Colbert,” Mother Jones, 11/01/13]

In 2014 "retired Navy SEAL Capt. Larry W. Bailey...the former commanding officer of the Naval Special Warfare Center, where Zinke received his early SEAL training...publicly accused Zinke of inappropriately using Navy travel funds for personal travel, an allegation Zinke admitted but said was a mistake." [John Adams, "Former Navy Officer Stands by statements against Zinke," Great Falls Tribune, 10/22/14]

"'There were ethics issues around his travel. He was using government travel to visit his home in Montana,' a senior Defense Department official who had served as a Navy SEAL told BuzzFeed's Michael Hastings shortly after Zinke founded SOFA. 'He got caught. That's why he left the SEALs.' Zinke explained that the 'incident with the travel claims' was actually the result of Zinke's attempt to set up SEAL training in Montana. 'I was very aggressive wanting to open up opportunities in Montana,' he told Hastings. 'I'm sure I pissed people off along the way.'"
"Zinke later told The Associated Press the disputed travel claim was for a $211 plane ticket to Montana when he was a junior officer." [John Adams, "Former Navy Officer Stands by statements against Zinke," Great Falls Tribune, 10/22/14]

The $211 was "for a one-way plane trip from Virginia to Montana in the mid-1990s. Zinke said he was scouting out potential sites for SEAL training missions and charged the Navy, but the Navy disallowed the airfare. He said he was not reprimanded, but ordered to pay back the money." [Charles Johnson, "Zinke touts leadership experience in U.S. House race," The Missoulian, 06/28/14]

"He said he paid the money back and the issue was settled."

"Bailey claimed he has knowledge of at least one blemish on Zinke's Navy record that Bailey said was severe enough Zinke narrowly avoided a court martial."

"Bailey claimed Zinke's former commanding officer, who is now a three-star admiral, personally told Bailey that 'he intended that [Zinke] not get promoted. He was eased out of SEAL Team 6 because of transgressions.'"

"'It wasn't a normal rotation,' Bailey said. "He continued, 'what they tried to do was let him stay 20 years in the Navy so he would get his retirement, so they weren't going to court martial him or get him in administrative punishment and require him to leave to service.'"

"'His special operations officer said he wanted to rip his [Zinke's] trident off his uniform and throw him out of the Navy, he was so upset about what he had done,' Bailey said. 'His commanding officer was more amenable and took middle ground, not kick him out of Navy, but get him out of SEAL Team 6. He said he wrote a fitness report that was designed to specifically prevent him from getting a promotion.'" [John Adams, "Former Navy Officer Stands by statements against Zinke," Great Falls Tribune, 10/22/14]

When Ryan Zinke was in the Navy he had "nine years of travel claims formally reviewed and audited."

"'Was I perfect?' Zinke asked. 'No. Was it embarrassing to me to have nine years of travel claims formally reviewed and audited? Yes. You know what, if I were to do it again, I would have done things differently. I learned a valuable lesson. My lesson learned is you're accountable.'" [Charles Johnson, "Zinke touts leadership experience in U.S. House race," The Missoulian, 06/28/14]

Ryan Zinke told the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that he has never "been investigated...by any federal...law enforcement authority for the violation of any
federal...law, regulation, or ordinance," yet he was investigated while in the Navy for misusing government funds and ordered to pay the government back.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources asked Ryan Zinke in a nomination-related questionnaire, "have you ever been investigated...by any federal...law enforcement authority for the violation of any federal...law, regulation, or ordinance?"

He said, "no." [Ryan Zinke Questionnaire, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 01/09/17]

However, Ryan Zinke had "nine years of [Navy] travel claims formally reviewed and audited." He admitted that he "inappropriately" used "Navy travel funds for personal travel." Zinke "said he paid the money back and the issue was settled." One Navy SEAL officer said, "Zinke narrowly avoided a court martial" over the matter. [John Adams, "Former Navy Officer Stands by statements against Zinke," Great Falls Tribune, 10/22/14; Charles Johnson, "Zinke touts leadership experience in U.S. House race," The Missoulian, 09/28/14]

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, said a political opponent "plays guitar," but "I waterboard people."

Ryan Zinke, at a debate against his Democratic opponent in his 2014 congressional race, said, "'John plays guitar,'" and "'I waterboard people.'" In a later email Zinke said "the comment was simply a joke," although he "acknowledged that waterboarding was part of his training." [Alan Zarembo, "Does being a veteran help candidates? A Montana politician hopes so," Los Angeles Times, 10/24/14]

Former Businesses

Ryan Zinke sat on the board and was a "State Government Liaison" for Save the World Air Inc., which had serious financial problems, including state and federal tax liens. Zinke sat on the company board from December 2012 to January 1, 2015. STWA Asia Pte. Limited appears in the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists' [ICIJ] offshore leaks database. According to the database, STWA Asia Pte. Limited has operated as an offshore entity since January 2006, and Save the World Air Inc. has been a shareholder since February 2006. The status of STWA Asia Pte. Limited is listed as "active" in the ICIJ database.

Ryan Zinke served on the Board of Directors of Save the World Air, Inc. [STWA] from December 2012 through January 1, 2015. The company developed and commercialized "pipeline flow assurance technologies that improve the economics, safety, and efficiencies of crude oil extraction and transportation systems." In other words, it is a "developer of applied solutions for oil and fuel delivery systems in the multi-billion dollar oil pipeline and diesel engine markets." [Save the World Air, Press Release, 12/14/12; Save the World Air Inc. Form 10-K, Securities and Exchange Commission, 2014; Save the World Air, Press Release, 11/25/13; Save the World Air, Press Release, 04/18/12]
By the time Zinke joined the STWA board he had been travelling for a "few months" with STWA President and CFO Gregg Bigger, "introducing various members of the North American energy industry to AOT," which is STWA's "oil pipeline efficiency technology." Bigger said, "Senator Zinke's unprecedented access to members of the energy community...allowed STWA to accelerate its sales and commercial development process throughout North America." [Save the World Air, Press Release, 12/14/12]

Ryan Zinke, as CEO of Continental Divide, LLC, became an independent contractor for STWA in 2013. In this capacity he served as a "State Government Liaison." According to his agreement as a contractor with STWA, Zinke was to be paid $60,000 for one year. [Independent Contractor Agreement, Securities and Exchange Commission, 2013]

STWA paid Zinke $85,000 for a "director's fee" in 2013. [Ryan Zinke, Personal Financial Disclosure, 2014]

In 2014, Zinke was granted $46,547 in stock options as a director at STWA. [Save the World Air Inc. Schedule 14A, Securities and Exchange Commission, 2015]

In 2013 STWA entered "an equipment lease/option to purchase deal with TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. by its agent TC Oil Pipeline Operations, Inc." Under the agreement TransCanada agreed to "lease, install, maintain, operate and test the efficiency of STWA's Applied Oil Technology [AOT] and equipment on one of TransCanada's active pipelines." ["Canada : STWA Inks Inked Equipment Lease/option to Purchase Deal with TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P," Mena Report, 08/06/13]

The lease "was terminated by TransCanada, effective October 15, 2014." [SAVE THE WORLD AIR INC, Securities and Commission Form 10-Q, 2014]

Weinberg & Company, PA, conducted an audit of STWA in 2014 that raised "substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern." It noted that STWA was "in the development stage, has not generated any revenues from operations to date, has experienced recurring operating losses and negative operating cash flows since inception, and has financed its working capital requirements through the recurring sale of its debt and equity securities." [Save the World Air Inc. Schedule 14A, Securities and Exchange Commission, 2013]

In 2014, the Employment Development Department of California filed a state tax lien against STWA, and the IRS filed a lien against the company in 2013. [Based on Data from LexisNexis]

Save the World Air had a wholly-owned Singaporean subsidiary called STWA Asia Pte. Limited. [Save the World Air Inc., Press Release, 11/01/06; Letter from STWA to shareholders, QS Energy, 12/10/14]

STWA Asia Pte. Limited produced "emissions-reduction devices" that aimed to "'reduce[e] harmful emissions'' and ''improv[e] fuel economy and performance" of motorcycles. STWA
Asia Pte. Limited products were sold in China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the United States. ["Save the World Air Appoints Exclusive Chinese Distributor," Mobile Emissions Today, 01/26/06; Save the World Air, Press Release, 04/25/07]

According to a December 2014 letter Save the World Air Inc. sent their shareholders, they dissolved STWA Asia Pte. Limited because it was "unnecessary." In the same letter, Save the World Air Inc. announced that Ryan Zinke was resigning as a STWA board member. [Letter from STWA to Shareholders, Save the World Air, 12/10/14]

STWA Asia Pte. Limited appears in the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists' offshore leaks database. STWA Asia Pte. Limited incorporated on January 17, 2006 and Save the World Air Inc. became a shareholder of STWA Asia Pte. Limited on February 14, 2016. The status of STWA Asia Pte. Limited is listed as "active" in the database and STWA Asia Pte. Limited's jurisdiction is listed as Singapore. ["Save the World Air Inc.," ICIJ Offshore Leaks Database, accessed 12/14/17]

Save the World Air Inc. and Hock Swee Goh are the only two shareholders of STWA Asia Pte. Limited listed in the offshore leaks database. ["STWA Asia Pte. Limited," ICIJ Offshore Leaks Database, accessed 12/14/17]

Save the World Air Inc. changed its name to QS Energy in August 2015. [QS Energy, Press Release, 08/11/15]

According to a document that QS Energy filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as of September 30, 2017, STWA Asia Pte. Limited is still one of its wholly owned subsidiaries. [QS Energy Form 10-Q, Securities and Exchange Commission, 09/30/17]

Ryan Zinke and his businesses have been delinquent on their taxes eight times in Flathead County, MT, since 2007. Zinke has also transferred properties back and forth between himself and his various businesses multiple times.

Ryan Zinke created Continental Divide Inns, LLC in 2005, and changed the name of this business to Continental Divide International, LLC in 2009. Since the name change Ryan Zinke has been the CEO of this business. [Articles of Organization for Continental Divide Inns, LLC, 03/22/05; Articles of Amendment for Continental Divide International, LLC, 03/13/09; Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 01/10/17]

The Zinkes, in 1998, acquired property in Whitefish, Montana. In 2005 they transferred it to Continental Divide Inns, LLC, and in 2010 Continental Divide Inns, LLC transferred the property back to the Zinkes. In 2011 the Zinkes transferred the property back to Continental Divide Inns, LLC, and in 2013 Continental Divide Inns, LLC transferred the property to Continental Divide International, LLC. [Flathead County Property Records]
The property taxes on one Whitefish property that were due on May 31, 2007, were not paid until July 6, 2007, so Continental Divide Inns, LLC was charged $69.99 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. The property taxes that were due on May 31, 2008, were not paid until June 20, 2008, so Continental Divide Inns, LLC was charged $53.86 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. The property taxes for the first half of 2016, which were due on November 30, 2016, were unpaid and delinquent as of January 10, 2017. [Flathead County Property Tax Records; Flathead County Delinquent Tax List]

The Zinkes, in 1998, acquired another property in Whitefish. In 2009 they transferred it to Continental Divide Inns, LLC, and in 2010 Continental Divide Inns, LLC transferred the property back to the Zinkes. In 2011 the Zinkes transferred the property back to Continental Divide Inns, LLC, and in 2013 Continental Divide Inns, LLC transferred the property to the Zinkes. Later in 2013 the Zinkes transferred this property to Continental Divide International, LLC. [Flathead County Property Records]

Ryan Zinke, on January 1, 2007, acquired a third property in Whitefish. The property taxes that were due on May 31, 2008, were not paid until June 30, 2008, so he and his wife were charged $1.92 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. [Flathead County Property Records; Property Tax Records]

The Zinkes, in 2009, acquired property at 410 West 3rd Street, in Whitefish. Later in 2009 they transferred this property to Continental Divide International, LLC. In 2013 Continental Divide International, LLC transferred this property to the Zinkes, and later in 2013 Continental Divide International, LLC transferred it back to the Zinkes. [Flathead County Property Records]

The Zinkes, in 2007, acquired property in Kalispell, Montana. In 2009 they transferred this property to Continental Divide International, LLC. Continental Divide International, LLC sold this property in 2013. The property taxes that were due on November 30, 2007, were not paid until June 30, 2008, so the Zinkes were charged $73.57 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. The property taxes that were due on May 31, 2008, were not paid until June 30, 2008, so the Zinkes were charged $26.48 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. [Flathead County Property Records; Property Tax Records]

Ryan Zinke in 2007, acquired property in Marion, Montana. The property taxes that were due on November 30, 2015, were not paid until December 1, 2015, so they were charged $29.89 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. [Flathead County Property Records; Property Tax Records]

Ryan Zinke, in 2011, created Double Tap LLC. Days later Double Tap LLC purchased property in Whitefish. Zinke planned to build a "microbrewery and bed and breakfast on West Second Street," but it never happened, yet Double Tap LLC remains to this day the owner of the same property in Whitefish. In 2013, after the decision not to move forward with the project was made, Double Tap LLC was involuntarily dissolved by the State of Montana due to failure to file "legally required Annual Reports and fees." The property taxes for the first half of 2016, which
were due on November 30, 2016, were unpaid and delinquent as of January 10, 2017. [Matt Baldwin, "High school bond top story of 2012," The Whitefish Pilot, 01/02/13; Articles of Organization for Double Tap LLC, 06/06/11; Involuntary Dissolution Notice for Double Tap LLC, 2013; Flathead County Property Records; Property Tax Records; Flathead County Delinquent Tax List]

Ryan Zinke told the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that he and his wife have never paid "any tax penalties or been subject to other tax collection" procedures, yet Ryan Zinke, his wife, and their businesses have been delinquent on their taxes eight times in Flathead County since 2007. At the time he said that, two of their businesses were on the Flathead County Delinquent Tax List over more than $3,000 in unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources asked Ryan Zinke in a nomination-related questionnaire, "have you or your spouse ever paid any tax penalties or been subject to other tax collection" procedures? He said, "no." [Ryan Zinke Questionnaire, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 01/09/17]

The property taxes on one Whitefish property, that were due on May 31, 2007, were not paid until July 6, 2007, so Continental Divide Inns, LLC was charged $69.99 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. The property taxes that were due on May 31, 2008, were not paid until June 20, 2008, so Continental Divide Inns, LLC was charged $53.86 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. The property taxes for the first half of 2016, which were due on November 30, 2016, were unpaid and delinquent as of January 10, 2017. If these taxes are paid by January 31, 2017, Continental Divide International, LLC will only owe $1,990.15 in taxes, $39.80 in penalties, and $33.80 in interest on this property, which is currently on the Flathead County Delinquent Tax List. [Flathead County Property Tax Records; Flathead County Delinquent Tax List]

Ryan Zinke, on January 1, 2007, acquired another property in Whitefish. The property taxes that were due on May 31, 2008, were not paid until June 30, 2008, so he and his wife were charged $1.92 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. [Flathead County Property Records; Property Tax Records]

The Zinkes, in 2007, acquired property in Kalispell, Montana. In 2009 they transferred this property to Continental Divide International, LLC. Continental Divide International, LLC sold this property in 2013. The property taxes that were due on November 30, 2007, were not paid until June 30, 2008, so the Zinkes were charged $73.57 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. The property taxes that were due on May 31, 2008, were not paid until June 30, 2008, so the Zinkes were charged $26.48 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. [Flathead County Property Records Property Tax Records]

Jamie Zinke, Ryan Zinke, and Randy Zinke, in 2007, acquired property in Marion, Montana. The property taxes that were due on November 30, 2015, were not paid until December 1, 2015, so
they were charged $29.89 in interest and penalties in addition to the property taxes. [Flathead County Property Records; Property Tax Records]

Jamie and Ryan Zinke, in 2011, created Double Tap LLC. Days later Double Tap LLC purchased a property in Whitefish. They planned to build a "microbrewery and bed and breakfast on West Second Street," but it never happened, yet Double Tap LLC remains to this day the owner of the property. The property taxes for the first half of 2016, which were due on November 30, 2016, were unpaid and delinquent as of January 10, 2017. If these taxes are paid by January 31, 2017, Double Tap LLC will only owe $1,031.91 in taxes, $20.63 in penalties, and $17.52 in interest on this property, which is currently on the Flathead County Delinquent Tax List. [Matt Baldwin, "High school bond top story of 2012," The Whitefish Pilot, 01/02/13; Articles of Organization for Double Tap LLC, 06/06/11; Involuntary Dissolution Notice for Double Tap LLC, 2013, Flathead County Property Records; Property Tax Records; Flathead County Delinquent Tax List]

Three of Ryan Zinke's businesses were dissolved by the State of Montana for not filing reports and paying fees. Currently, two of these three businesses are illegally doing business in the state by going years without filing required reports and paying required fees to the state. One of these businesses also operated without a business license for years.

Montana corporations and LLC's are required to file annual reports with the secretary of state by April 15, and submit a $20.00 filing fee by that date. [Instructions: Business Entity Annual Report, Montana Secretary of State, accessed 12/03/18]

Ryan Zinke created Continental Divide Inns, LLC in 2005, and changed the name of this business to Continental Divide International, LLC in 2009. [Articles of Organization for Continental Divide Inns, LLC, 03/22/05; Articles of Amendment for Continental Divide International, LLC, 03/13/09; Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 01/10/17]

On December 4, 2006, Continental Divide Inns, LLC was involuntarily dissolved by the State of Montana for failure to file "legally required annual reports and fees." [Involuntary Dissolution Notice for Continental Divide Inns, LLC, 12/04/06]

At the time of the involuntarily dissolution Continental Divide Inns, LLC was doing business. It owned a property in Whitefish. [Flathead County Property Records]


In accordance with an ordinance passed in 2010, Continental Divide International, LLC, as a home-based business, is required to have a Home Occupation Business License. The ordinance says, "no person, partnership, company, corporation, or any other entity shall conduct, operate,
transact, or engage in business of any kind within the city [of Whitefish] before first submitting an application and obtaining approval for a business license from the city. However, Continental Divide International, LLC did not apply with the City of Whitefish for a Home Occupation Business License until December 17, 2013. As such, it was operating for years without a license from the city. ["Business Licensing Provisions," City of Whitefish, accessed 12/03/18; Home Occupation Business License Application for Continental Divide International, LLC, 12/17/13]

In 2018, Ryan Zinke and his wife made $15,001-$50,000 on "rent or royalties" from property owned by Continental Divide International, which had involuntarily forfeited "its right to carry on business within" Montana in December 2017, when the GOP Secretary of State involuntarily dissolved the Zinkes LLC. Yet the Zinkes still "control" this LLC.

Ryan Zinke created Continental Divide Inns, LLC in 2005, and changed the name of this business to Continental Divide International, LLC in 2009. Since the name change Ryan Zinke has been the CEO of this business. Continental Divide International was a property management firm. Zinke and/or this business own numerous rental properties in Whitefish and Kalispell, which are both in Flathead County, [Articles of Organization for Continental Divide Inns, LLC, 03/22/05; Articles of Amendment for Continental Divide International, LLC, 03/13/09; Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 01/10/17]

On May 13, 2018, Ryan Zinke signed his personal financial disclosure report, where he disclosed that in the preceding year, he and his wife made $15,001-$50,000 on "rent or royalties" from property owned by Continental Divide International. [Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 08/21/18]

On December 18, 2016, Ryan Zinke signed his personal financial disclosure report, where he disclosed that in the preceding year, he and his wife made $15,001-$50,000 on "rent or royalties" from property owned by Continental Divide International. [Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 01/10/17]

Ryan Zinke claims to have resigned his management of Continental Divide, LLC in March 2017, yet, the Zinkes still "control" a number of properties "through the Continental Divide and Double Tap LLCs," as Ryan Zinke's wife Lola has stayed on as "managing member" of Continental Divide. [Ben Lefebvre, "Interior IG to scrutinize Zinke’s beer-making plans," Politico, 08/02/18; Corbin Hiar, "Records, watchdogs raise questions on Zinke’s ethics deal," E&E News, 05/25/17]

On September 1, 2017, the Montana Secretary of State's office sent Continental Divide International, LLC an Involuntary Dissolution Intent Notice, citing Continental Divide's neglecting to send in their 2017 Annual Report. On December 1, 2017, the Montana Secretary of State's office dissolved Continental Divide International, LLC" which resulted in the LLC "forfeiting its right to carry on business within the state in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. §§ 35-6-104 and 35-8-209." [Involuntary Intent Notice, Continental Divide International, LLC,
Montana Secretary of State, 09/01/17; Notice of Involuntary Dissolution, Continental Divide International, LLC, Montana Secretary of State, 12/01/17

Jamie and Ryan Zinke, in 2011, created Double Tap LLC. Ryan Zinke has been the managing member of Double Tap LLC since 2011. Double Tap LLC purchased a property in Whitefish, in 2011. Double Tap LLC remains to this day the owner of this property. [Flathead County Property Records; Articles of Organization for Double Tap, LLC, 06/01/11, Double Tap, LLC Annual Reports; Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 01/10/17]

Double Tap LLC, in 2013, was involuntarily dissolved by the State of Montana due to failure to file "legally required Annual Reports and fees." Double Tap LLC last filed an annual report in 2012. [Articles of Organization for Double Tap LLC, 06/06/11; Involuntary Dissolution Notice for Double Tap LLC, 2013; Double Tap, LLC Annual Reports]

Since 2015, Ryan Zinke has made at least $10,002-$30,000 in "rent or royalties" from property owned by Double Tap LLC, which has been officially "shut down by Montana's secretary of state" since 2013 for failing to submit the necessary annual report and fees. Zinke's wife appears to still be a controlling member of the LLC.

On May 13, 2018, Ryan Zinke signed his personal financial disclosure report, where he disclosed that in the preceding year, he and his wife made $5,001-$15,000 on "rent or royalties" from property owned by Double Tap LLC. [Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 08/21/18]

On December 18, 2016, Ryan Zinke signed his personal financial disclosure report, where he disclosed that in the preceding year, he and his wife made $5,001-$15,000 on "rent or royalties" from property owned by Double Tap LLC. [Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 01/10/17]

"Zinke told the ethics office in a financial disclosure report that Double Tap, established in June 2011, was worth more than $100,000 and provided him with an income of between $5,000 and $15,000 last year. But in 2013, it had been shut down by Montana's secretary of state after failing to submit the necessary annual report and fees. 'Since the Annual Report was not successfully filed, Montana law requires the Secretary of State to dissolve your business,' the notice said. 'Dissolution proceedings against the Corporation or Limited Liability Company have been completed. The Corporation or Limited Liability Company has involuntarily given up its right to transact business in the State of Montana.'" [Corbin Hiar, "Records, watchdogs raise questions on Zinke's ethics deal," E&E News, 05/25/17]

Ryan Zinke claims to have resigned his management of Double Tap LLC in March 2017, yet, the Zinkes still "control" a number of properties "through[...] Double Tap [LLC]," as Ryan Zinke's wife Lola appears to have stayed on as a "managing member." [Ben Lefebvre, "Interior IG to
Ryan Zinke was the president of On Point Montana, LLC from January 2012 to December 2014. [Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 01/10/17]

In 2013, On Point Montana, LLC was involuntarily dissolved by the State of Montana for failure to file legally required annual reports and fees. It last filed an annual report with the State of Montana in 2012. [Involuntary Dissolution Notice for On Point Montana, LLC, 2013; On Point Montana, LLC Annual Reports]

Ryan Zinke, his wife, and Dr. Joel Bernstein, an oncologist "for 30 years in La Jolla, California," formed a "business development company" in 2005. Ryan Zinke was the CEO of the company. From 2007 to 2011, Dr. Joel Bernstein and his medical practice ran "a scheme to import unapproved foreign cancer drugs at a deep discount, dispense them to unwitting patients, bill Medicare as if the drugs were legitimate, and pocket the profits." In 2013, four years after Dr. Bernstein was no longer in business with the Zinkes, Dr. Bernstein plead guilty to one misdemeanor charge, and his practice plead guilty to one case of health care fraud and settled a False Claims Act lawsuit. He was put on probation for a year, and his practice "paid a $500,000 fine," forfeited "$1.2 million and made restitution to Medicare for $1.7 million." The practice also "paid $2.2 million to settle [the] civil False Claims Act lawsuit," which was "applied to criminal restitution owed to Medicare." Harry Sevel, the son of one of Dr. Bernstein's former patients, alleged that Bernstein's legal case had made Bernstein "so preoccupied" that he "forgot his patients" and as a result neglected to care for Sevel's father, who later died.

Ryan Zinke created Continental Divide Inns, LLC in 2005. The initial members of Continental Divide Inns were the Zinkes and Dr. Joel Bernstein. [Articles of Organization for Continental Divide Inns, LLC, Montana Secretary of State, 03/22/05]

Continental Divide Inns, LLC changed its name to Continental Divide International, LLC in 2009. Since the name change Ryan Zinke has been the CEO of this business, which is a "business development company." [Articles of Amendment for Continental Divide International, LLC, Montana Secretary of State, 03/13/09; Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), Ryan Zinke, Office of Government Ethics, 01/10/17; Charles S. Johnson, "U.S. House candidate Zinke amasses more wealth than Lewis," Missoulian, 07/16/14]

Joel Bernstein MD disassociated himself from Continental Divide International LLC on December 29, 2009. [Statement of Dissolution for Joel Bernstein, Montana Secretary of State, 12/29/09]
Joel Ian Bernstein was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 2, 1953. He attended Brandeis University for his undergraduate degree, graduating in 1975 and Stanford for his medical degree, graduating in 1979.

According to the California Medical Board, Dr. Joel I Bernstein became a licensed physician in 1980. He practiced oncology "for 30 years in La Jolla, California." According to his LinkedIn, he served "as an associate clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Diego, and [held] the position of medical director of the oncology research program at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, California. He also served as Chair of the Human Subjects Committee and was a principal investigator in more than seventy clinical trials." Most recently Bernstein was "a staff member at Scripps Memorial Hospital."

He died on December 25, 2014. The cause of his death was not reported. According to his obituary, he is survived by a brother, sister, niece and nephew. [Joel Ian Bernstein Obituary, Los Angeles Times, accessed via Legacy.com, 12/27/14; LinkedIn Profile for Joel Bernstein MD, LinkedIn, accessed 02/21/18; Greg Moran, "La Jolla cancer doc defrauded Medicare," San Diego Union-Tribune, 01/23/13]

In January 2013, "prominent" "La Jolla cancer doctor" "Dr. Joel l Bernstein" and his corporate medical practice plead guilty in federal court "in connection with a scheme to import unapproved foreign cancer drugs at a deep discount, dispense them to unwitting patients, bill Medicare as if the drugs were legitimate, and pocket the profits." [Press Release, Department of Justice, 01/23/13]

In January 2013, Dr. Joel l Bernstein MD. Inc., Dr. Bernstein's medical practice, plead guilty "to one count of health care fraud." Employees of Dr. Joel l. Bernstein MD plead guilty to "buying $3.4 million of foreign cancer drugs from 2007 to 2011" "knowing they had not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in the United States." His medical practice purchased the foreign drugs "at significant discounts when compared to similar medicine approved by the FDA." His office "then submitted claims to Medicare for the drugs, using codes for similar approved cancer drugs. The insurance program for seniors and the disabled does not pay for non-FDA approved medicines." Bernstein's "practice received $1.7 million from Medicare, and earned another $1.2 million in gross proceeds related to the drugs." [Press Release, Department of Justice, 01/23/13; Kristina Davis, "No jail for cancer doc in drug fraud," San Diego Union-Tribune, 07/02/13]

Bernstein also "plea[d] guilty to a misdemeanor charge of introducing an unapproved drug into interstate commerce." He plead guilty to administering "a cancer drug called 'Mabthera' intended for market in Turkey" to his patients. [Greg Moran, "La Jolla cancer doc defrauded Medicare," San Diego Union-Tribune, 01/23/13; Press Release, Department of Justice, 01/23/13]
In a third case, "the government... also filed a False Claims Act lawsuit in District Court against Dr. Bernstein and his medical corporation for submitting false claims to the Medicare Program for these unapproved drugs."

In summer 2013, "La Jolla oncologist" "Dr. Joel I. Bernstein" was "sentenced in San Diego federal court... to a year of probation," and Dr. Bernstein's "practice was ordered to pay a $500,000 fine, forfeit $1.2 million and make restitution to Medicare for $1.7 million." According to Bernstein's attorney, the payments were made. [Kristina Davis, "No jail for cancer doc in drug fraud," San Diego Union-Tribune, 07/02/13]

Dr. Bernstein and his practice "paid $2.2 million to settle [the] civil False Claims Act lawsuit." That amount was "applied to criminal restitution owed to Medicare." [Kristina Davis, "No jail for cancer doc in drug fraud," San Diego Union-Tribune, 07/02/13]

Before the three 2013 lawsuits, according to the California Medical Board, Bernstein had "no record of previous discipline." [Greg Moran, "La Jolla cancer doc defrauded Medicare," San Diego Union-Tribune, 01/23/13]

At the time of Bernstein's sentencing, one of the sons of Bernstein's former patients "accused Bernstein of being so preoccupied by his legal case... that he ignored" his father's cirrhosis of the liver. "Harry Sevel said his 77-year-old father wasn't given the foreign cancer drugs, but he did die after his liver disease progressed. 'He was greedy, he got caught and was panicked,' Sevel said of Bernstein. 'He forgot his patients.'"

At the time, the Sevel family said they were "considering filing a complaint with the medical board" against Bernstein. However, it appears that no complaint was filed. [Kristina Davis, "No jail for cancer doc in drug fraud," San Diego Union-Tribune, 07/02/13; Search for Joel Bernstein, Medical Board of California Public Document Lookup Search, accessed 02/22/18]

In 2013, Joel Bernstein donated $5,200 to Ryan Zinke's congressional committee and $500 to the Special Operations for America [SOFA] PAC, a PAC that Zinke created in 2012 and that began supporting Zinke's bid for Congress in 2013. SOFA PAC also paid Continental Divide International, Zinke's company that Bernstein had formerly been associated with, $26,317.11 for "'fundraising consulting' and 'strategy consulting.'"

Joel I. Bernstein, on November 1, 2013, donated $2,600 to Ryan Zinke's congressional campaign. [Zinke for Congress Itemized Receipts, Federal Election Commission, 11/01/13]

Joel I. Bernstein, on December 9, 2013, donated $2,600 to Ryan Zinke's congressional campaign. He described himself as a self-employed physician. [Zinke for Congress Itemized Receipts, Federal Election Commission, 12/09/13]
Joel Bernstein donated $500 to the Special Operations for America [SOFA] PAC, a PAC with ties to Ryan Zinke, on October 2, 2013. He described himself as a self-employed physician. [Special Operations for America Itemized Receipts, Federal Election Commission, 10/02/13]

Ryan Zinke "created the Special Operations for America [SOFA] super PAC to back Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign," and in 2013, SOFA PAC transitioned to supporting congressional campaigns. Zinke resigned from the super PAC on September 30, 2013, and in October 2013 the super PAC made Zinke their "first candidate." SOFA PAC "spent $250,000 in independent expenditures in support of Zinke's candidacy and against one of his opponents." From July 2012 to March 2013, the super-PAC paid Zinke's company, Continental Divide International, $26,317.11 for "fundraising consulting' and 'strategy consulting.'" Zinke received complaints "alleging illegal coordination" between his campaign and SOFA PAC. [Matt Volz, "GOP's Zinke reaps benefit of PAC he founded, but is it legal?," Associated Press, 02/16/14; Charles Johnson, "Democrats blast Zinke's pick of former super PAC treasurer as chief of staff," Billings Gazette, 01/07/15; Molly Redden, "GOP Congressional Candidate Using Campaign Money Scheme Pioneered by...Stephen Colbert," Mother Jones, 11/01/13; Troy Carter, "Zinke denies super PAC coordination," Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 07/31/14]

When Ryan Zinke was a nominee to be Secretary of the Interior he did not disclose all of his business interests, which may have violated financial disclosure law.

"Secretary Ryan Zinke is a shareholder in" PROOF Research Inc., which "manufactures and sells firearms and advanced weapons materials," though he did not disclose this asset on the executive branch financial disclosure report he filed when he was a nominee in 2017. "Presidential nominees for Cabinet positions must disclose all assets worth $1,000 or more on their executive branch financial disclosure report." [Itai Vardi, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Held Onto Undisclosed Shares In Gun Company," Huffington Post, 02/23/18]

Santa Barbara

Ryan Zinke "spends so much time in Santa Barbara" that has been described as "a peripatetic, pseudo-resident." When Ryan Zinke was involved in a lawsuit in Washington, DC, in 2016, he listed his address in Santa Barbara. Zinke initially got his "Santa Barbara credentials" from marrying the daughter of a prominent Santa Barbara businessman, and he now splits his "time between Washington, Whitefish and Santa Barbara." He has hosted fundraisers "at his Hope Ranch house," in Santa Barbara.

Ryan Zinke has been described as "a peripatetic, pseudo-resident of Santa Barbara" and as someone who "spends so much time in Santa Barbara that he qualifies as a part-time resident." [Nick Welsh, "Trump, Zinke Seek to Foul Santa Barbara's Nest," Santa Barbara Independent, 02/15/18; Nick Welsh, "Nice Poodle Plays Dead," Santa Barbara Independent, 01/04/18]

The Zinkes listed their address in Santa Barbara, California in 2016, in the court case over a dispute with the Greek Orthodox Church over a home they rented in Washington, DC. [Case No. 2016 CA 007772 B, Superior Court for the District of Columbia, October 20, 2016]

He "gets his Santa Barbara credentials by being married to the daughter of Fred Hand, Lolita. Hand was a well-known Santa Barbara businessman in the '60s and has a street named after him." [Barney Brantingham, "Montanan Hunts S.B. $$,$" Santa Barbara Independent, 05/08/14]

"Ryan Zinke has raised large donations from out of state, particularly from... California where he has held successful fundraisers near a home in Santa Barbara where his family lives." [Letter to the Editor, Freeman Robinson, "OPINION: A liberal in SEAL's clothing," Daily Inter Lake, 05/24/14]

In 2016, Ryan Zinke hosted a fundraiser for then-congressional candidate Justin Fareed "at his Hope Ranch house." [Kelsey Brugger, "Elephant Race," Santa Barbara Independent, 03/24/16; Michael Doyle, "Trump's Interior Department pick has some California family and fundraising roots," McClatchy, 12/15/16]

The Zinkes have millions of dollars in property in Santa Barbara through a family trust. The property, which totals more than ten acres, includes a palatial house and an apartment building. The Zinkes also own a 36-foot Chinese-made yacht.

Ryan Zinke's 2016 OGE 278e disclosure says the Zinkes own through a family trust "residential real estate" and undeveloped land in Santa Barbara. [Ryan Zinke, OGE 278e disclosure, 2016]

The family trust appears to be the Consuelo G Hand Living Trust 9/13/91. [Document # 2017-0005287, Santa Barbara County Clerk Recorder]

Ryan Zinke's 2014 US House PFD indicates that his wife earned $24,000 from the Hand Trust, and his 2015 US House PFD indicates that she was paid $8,000 by the Hand Trust. [Rep. Ryan Zinke, US House PFDs, 2014 and 2015]

Ryan Zinke's 2016 OGE 278e disclosure says his wife received income in the form of a property management fee from a family trust. This disclosure lists a family trust with a value of "over $1,000,000." The trust paid the Zinkes between $15,001 and $50,000 that year in "rent or royalties." [Ryan Zinke, OGE 278e disclosure, 2016]

The Consuelo G Hand Living Trust 9/13/91 owns a property in Santa Barbara which includes a single-family residence on almost six acres. [Santa Barbara County Assessor's Office]
The Consuelo G Hand Living Trust 9/13/91 owns a second property in Santa Barbara which includes an apartment building on almost five acres. This property was transferred from the Frederick Wilson Hand's Testamentary Trusts A&B to the Consuelo G. Hand Living Trust u/a September 13, 1991. [Document #2017- 0049006, Santa Barbara County Clerk Recorder; Document # 2017-0049274, Santa Barbara County Clerk Recorder; Santa Barbara County Assessor's Office]

In 1998, there was a complaint filed against the second property for a crack in the street. The case was resolved the same year. [Conversation with the City of Santa Barbara Zoning Desk, 02/20/18]


On November 23, 2013, the Zinkes obtained a yacht called the Dolce Vita from Mark A. and Charlotte Jones. The Zinkes changed the yacht's name to Freyja on December 9, 2013. [General Index or Abstract of Title, Department of Homeland Security US Coast Guard, issued 01/03/18]

The Zinkes' yacht was built at Fuzhou Fujuan in China in 2001. Its official number is 1116134 and its hull number is XJD36026J001. It was built by Fujian Da Feng Pleasure Boat Co LTD for Seahawk Distributors. [Freyja, Certificate of Documentation, 03/22/16]

**Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation**

Ryan Zinke, in 2007, established a nonprofit with the intention of building a park in his hometown of Whitefish that would become a community gathering place and event venue. Those plans never materialized. Today the park languishes as a "vacant industrial site" and is used as a "staging area" for highway crews. Neighbors complain that the park attracts "drinking and unruly behavior," and nobody seems to know if Zinke has any plans to improve it.

The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation [GNVPPF] was incorporated in Montana on August 15, 2007. Its registered agent is Ryan Purdy. When it was incorporated, Lola Zinke was its president. [Certificate of Fact, Montana Secretary of State, 08/15/07]

Ryan Zinke had "the idea of obtaining an old gravel pit near the Whitefish Cemetery for a recreation area" in 2007 and "said his wife suggested creating a peace park." BNSF officials signed the deed to the land on January 23, 2008. "The land was valued at $275,000." [Candace Chase, "Land Donation gets Peace Park Rolling," Daily Inter Lake, 02/03/08]

Public input on the Veterans Peace Pack described it as a "vacant industrial site" and members of the public raised concerns about noise, traffic, and "the impacts of the peace park on the residential character of existing neighborhoods." ["Whitefish Highway 93 West Corridor Plan," City of Whitefish, 04/23/15]
In April 2016, parts of the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park were being used "as a staging area for the highway construction company." [Meeting Minutes, Whitefish City Council, 04/18/16]

The group "Citizens for a Better Flathead" submitted a letter to the Whitefish City Council to complain about unresolved issues with the Veterans Peace Park. The letter notes that noise, hours, drinking and unruly behavior, traffic, and parking issues "all have not been addressed" at the Veterans Peace Park. [Letter to Whitefish City Council, Citizens for a Better Flathead, 05/04/15]

In April 2016, Councilor Hildner asked if Zinke and the city had further plans for developing the peace park as an event area. City Manager Stearns "was not sure of Ryan's development plans," and planning and building director Taylor said he "thought maybe one event a year." Taylor mentioned that the area was being used "as a staging area for the highway construction company." The council agreed that Zinke would have to "come to the Council" if he planned for the park "to be converted from an open space to another use." City manager Stearns planned to contact Zinke to ask about "his intentions of the property." [Meeting Minutes, Whitefish City Council, 04/18/16]

When the city of Whitefish's lease for a tract of land to the GNVPPF was up for renewal, Councilman Hildner said he searched online for the foundation and "could not find anything online and was wondering the status of the organization," noting that it was "still a going concern." Mayor Muhfield said that after speaking with Ryan Zinke, he was "comfortable with the agreement." The council voted unanimously to renew the lease after Councilor Sweeney asked the city attorney to check to see if the foundation was "still authorized to do business." [Meeting Minutes, Whitefish City Council, 06/20/16]

Ryan Zinke obtained "an old gravel pit near the Whitefish Cemetery" from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad [BNSF] to begin building the park in 2007. He convinced BNSF to donate 4.892 acres of land after pursuing "contacts on behalf of the park with former [Montana] Gov. Mark Racicot, a board member of BNSF" in Zinke's "final months as a Navy commander." Zinke established a nonprofit called the "Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation" for the purpose of building the park. The foundation received its final land donation in 2013, bringing the total acreage of the park to nearly 18 acres.

Ryan Zinke had "the idea of obtaining an old gravel pit near the Whitefish Cemetery for a recreation area" in 2007 and "said his wife suggested creating a peace park." He convinced Burlington Northern Santa Fe [BNSF] railway to donate the 4.892 acres to his Veterans Peace Park Foundation after pursuing "contacts on behalf of the park with former [Montana] Gov. Mark Racicot, a board member of BNSF" in Zinke's "final months as a Navy commander." BNSF officials signed the deed to the land on January 23, 2008. "The land was valued at $275,000." [Candace Chase, "Land Donation gets Peace Park Rolling," Daily Inter Lake, 02/03/08]
Zinke is president of the Veterans Peace Park Foundation. Its board includes his stepdaughter, Tim Grattan, Dr. John S. Peterson, and Douglas Schuch. [Candace Chase, "Land Donation gets Peace Park Rolling," Daily Inter Lake, 02/03/08]

GNVPP received its final land donation in 2013 to make the total acreage of the park nearly 18 acres. ["Whitefish Highway 93 West Corridor Plan," City of Whitefish, 04/23/15]

Lola Zinke says the Veterans Peace Park is "an 18-acre children's sledding park." ["Outstanding Hispanic Republican Leader: Lolita Zinke," Republican National Committee, 10/05/16]

Ryan Zinke had a parcel of land appraised at $275,000 before BNSF Railway agreed to donate it. However, Flathead County property records indicate the parcel is currently valued at $154,956. It appears that BNSF may have received a tax deduction in excess of the actual value of its donation to Zinke's foundation.

Ryan Zinke "obtained the appraisal of $275,000 for the land and the survey" of the 4.892 acres before BNSF Railway agreed to donate the land. Following the instructions of Matt Rose, the CEO of BNSF, who called Zinke after he "pursued contacts on behalf of the park," Zinke had the land appraised by F& H Surveying and Frazier Appraisal Service, which "donated the survey and appraisal needed to obtain the land." [Candace Chase, "Land Donation gets Peace Park Rolling," Daily Inter Lake, 02/03/08]

Flathead County's records indicate that the property which BNSF gifted to the GNVPPF in 2008 is currently valued at $154,956. [Property Record Card, Flathead County, accessed 10/27/17]

The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation leases a section of cemetery land from the City of Whitefish at the rate of $1/year. The parcel is a steep hill used for snow sledding in Veterans Peace Park. Zinke sought a 10-year renewal in 2016, but the city granted him a 5-year lease, citing a lack of information about the park's long-term plans.

In 2011, the city of Whitefish voted to lease sections of land to the GNVPPF for $1/year. The council granted Zinke's request for a five-year lease to the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation for a corner of city-owned cemetery land. [Lynette Hintze, "Whitefish Cemetery Land OK'd for Park," Daily Inter Lake, 07/20/11]

The GNVPPF leases a parcel of cemetery land from the city of Whitefish. The Whitefish City Council approved a five-year lease to the foundation 2011 and renewed it in June 2016 at the cost of $1 per year. [Heidi Desch, "Veterans Peace Park Lease Renewed," Whitefish Pilot, 06/28/16]

In 2016, Zinke sought a 10-year renewal of his initial 5-year lease. Zinke told the city of Whitefish that the lease "will allow him to assume noxious weed control and liability on the city property." He said his focus for 2016 will be "topsoil and seed, restoring the pond habitat, and installing gates," and that he envisions that the park will host "a number of activities and
events" in the future. Instead, the council granted him a 5-year lease over concerns that they didn't know anything about the park's long-term plans. [Heidi Desch, "Veterans Peace Park Lease Renewed," Whitefish Pilot, 6/28/16 and City Council Meeting Video, Whitefish City Council, 04/18/16 [01:57:55]]

The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park is in disrepair. Residents have described the park as a "vacant industrial site," with parts of it being used "as a staging area" for a highway construction company. Residents are also concerned about its impact on the "residential character" of existing neighborhoods. Even Ryan Zinke, who owns land nearby, described the neighborhood as a "'blight.'"

Public input on the Veterans Peace Pack described it as a "vacant industrial site" and members of the public raised concerns about noise, traffic, and "the impacts of the peace park on the residential character of existing neighborhoods." ["Whitefish Highway 93 West Corridor Plan," City of Whitefish, 04/23/15]

In April 2016, parts of the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park were being used "as a staging area for the highway construction company." [Meeting Minutes, Whitefish City Council, 04/18/16]

Zinke proposed building the GNVPP because it would help West 2nd street become the "'great neighborhood'" that it was when he grew up, and not the "'blight'" that it currently is. [Matt Baldwin, "Push Made for US 93 West Crosswalk," Whitefish Pilot, 06/13/12]

Whitefish residents have complained repeatedly about problems at the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park related to noise, drinking, unruly behavior, traffic, and other issues. One letter even said that the park should not be described as "'public'" because of the lack of public input in its management.

Comments collected from a public input session said that the Veterans Peace Park should not be described as "'public'" because "the public doesn't have a say in the rules or management" of the park. [Appendix A: Public Input Session #1 Comments, Whitefish Highway 93 West Corridor Plan, 04/20/15]

In a letter to the editor, MaiBritt Bennett, who can "see the entire park from my yard," complained about several issues with the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park. Bennett was concerned about safety issues related to alcohol and a lack of fencing between the park and the railroad tracks, as well as music playing after 10:00. [MaiBritt Bennett, "A Few Thoughts about Concerts at Peace Park," Whitefish Pilot, 07/18/12]

Ryan Zinke's initial plans for the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park included "installing flags for all the armed forces" and "a historic plaque describing the contributions of veterans and the railroad to the community of Whitefish." The Chamber of Commerce also envisioned building an amphitheater in the space, which Zinke claimed would include seating "'designed
so you can lay out a blanket and you won't spill a glass of wine." However, none of this has actually happened. In 2016, Zinke said the only plans he had for the park were improving topsoil, "restoring" a pond, and installing a gate to keep out "vagrants."

In 2008, Zinke planned for "installing flags for all the armed forces along with a historic plaque describing the contributions of veterans and the railroad to the community of Whitefish." Zinke said the board would seek donations for the park, and that there would be "zero taxpayer dollars in this." [Candace Chase, "Land Donation gets Peace Park Rolling," Daily Inter Lake, 02/03/08]

The 2013 City of Whitefish parks master plan describes Veterans Peace Park as "undeveloped" and "in design phase." The plan says the park may include a "potential future amphitheater." ["Parks and Recreation Master Plan," City of Whitefish, September 2013]

In 2012, the Whitefish Chamber had $20,000 set aside to go toward putting a band shell at the Peace Park "as early as this summer." [Matt Baldwin, "Summer series sparks concern about overuse of Depot Park," Whitefish Pilot, 04/18/12]

Ryan Zinke said the music venue at the Peace Park would include "picnic-style seating" with a slope "designed so you can lay out a blanket and you won't spill a glass of wine." [Matt Baldwin, "Material from road work helps shape Peace Park," Whitefish Pilot, 12/03/13]

In 2016, Ryan Zinke told Whitefish City Manager Chuck Stearns that the only planned improvements for the park that year were topsoil, seed, restoring the pond habitat, and installing gates to keep out "vagrants." [Ryan Zinke email to Chuck Stearns, 04/19/16]

An opponent to putting an amphitheater at the Veterans Peace Park said it was a bad location because train whistles would interfere with music, neighbors would be adversely impacted, and it was far away from facilities.

Toby Scott, a Whitefish-based music recording engineer, opposed putting an amphitheater at the Veterans Peace Park. Scott said the location is bad because the train whistles would be loud, there are no nearby public facilities or parking, and housing would be affected by performances. Scott also noted that the park is "next to the only railroad crossing in Whitefish that is without a guard gate." [Toby Scott, "Proposed Concert Arena in Wrong Location," Whitefish Pilot, 07/11/12]

In 2016, when Ryan Zinke sought to renew a lease on land from the Whitefish City Council, councilors were unsure about Zinke's development plans for the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park. One councilor had to search the Internet for information about the park and "could not find anything online" about the status of the organization. Though Zinke requested a 10-year renewal, the Council granted him a 5-year lease, citing a lack of information about the park's long-term plans.
In April 2016, Councilor Hildner asked if Zinke and the city had further plans for developing the peace park as an event area. City Manager Stearns "was not sure of Ryan's development plans," and planning and building director Taylor said he "thought maybe one event a year." Taylor mentioned that the area was being used "as a staging area for the highway construction company." The council agreed that Zinke would have to "come to the Council" if he planned for the park "to be converted from an open space to another use." City manager Stearns planned to contact Zinke to ask about "his intentions of the property." [Meeting Minutes, Whitefish City Council, 04/18/16]

When the city of Whitefish's lease for a tract of land to the GNVPPF was up for renewal, Councilman Hildner said he searched online for the foundation and "could not find anything online and was wondering the status of the organization," noting that it was "still a going concern." Mayor Muhfield said that after speaking with Ryan Zinke, he was "comfortable with the agreement." The council voted unanimously to renew the lease after Councilor Sweeney asked the city attorney to check to see if the foundation was "still authorized to do business." [Meeting Minutes, Whitefish City Council, 06/20/16]

In 2016, one councilor asked if Ryan Zinke's plans to improve the park have "just kind of gone away." The city manager was unable to answer because Zinke "didn't really tell...[him] much of his development plans" and would not appear before the council because of his travel schedule. Another councilor said, "I'm not sure [where] he's at with his development plan. I'm sure he's got something in his mind at the end of the day, but I'm not seeing it."

Councilman Richard Hildner says he wants to see "more of an idea of what the plans are for his development so that we can act appropriately." [City Council Meeting Video, Whitefish City Council, 06/20/16 [02:07:30]]

Whitefish Mayor John Muffled says he's "not so sure" what the "master plan" is for the park. [City Council Meeting Video, Whitefish City Council, 06/20/16 [02:09:10]]

Councilman Richard Hildner asks if there has been any more discussion to develop the park as "an event area, or has that just kind of gone away?" The City Manager says he doesn't think plans have gone away, but Zinke "didn't really tell me much of his development plans." Zinke said he could not attend any city council meetings because he "pretty much flies back to Washington, DC every Monday." [City Council Meeting Video, Whitefish City Council, 06/20/16 [02:03:19]]

Councilman David Taylor says, "last time I talked to him, he talked about maybe trying to do one event there a summer, or something like that. And that was a couple years ago... He ended up using it for a staging area for highway construction for the last few years in exchange for them doing some site work there. He wanted to do a small pond, and it blew up into a huge pond, so he's trying to deal with that—drain it down. I'm not sure he's at with his development plan. I'm sure he's got something in his mind at the end of the day, but I'm not seeing it." [City Council Meeting Video, Whitefish City Council, 06/20/16 [02:04:10]]
When Ryan Zinke became Secretary of the Interior, he signed an agreement "to resign from the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation" and claimed he had completed his agreed resignations on March 6, 2017. However, records show that he may not have followed through. An April 2017 filing with the Montana Secretary of States indicates that Zinke was still a director with the Great Northern Veteran Peace Park Foundation, though nonprofits are not required to report a resignation from a nonprofit until the next year's annual report.

When Ryan Zinke became Secretary of the Interior, he signed an agreement "to resign from the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation." [Tom Lutey, "Zinke is the Least Well-Off Member of Trump's Cabinet, Reports Show," Billings Gazette, 01/13/17]

Ryan Zinke, on a June 2017 OGE form, claimed that he had "completed all of the resignations indicated in my ethics agreement on March 6, 2017." [Ryan Zinke's Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance, Office of Government Ethics, May 2017]

A 990 stamped "received" on March 17, 2017 indicates that Ryan Zinke is still the president of the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation. ["Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation," IRS Form 990, 2016]

An April 2017 filing with the Montana Secretary of States indicates that Zinke was still a director with the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation. [GNVPPF Annual Report for 2017, Montana Secretary of State, 04/14/17]

Based on a phone call with the Montana Secretary of State's office, nonprofits are not required to report a resignation from a nonprofit until the next year's annual report.

Ryan Zinke, in June 2018, “said in a statement that he ‘resigned as president and board member’ of the foundation ‘upon becoming secretary.’ The foundation’s 2018 annual report to the state of Montana, however, lists Ryan Zinke as an officer, with Lola Zinke as president and their daughter as treasurer. Zinke said the report was in error and he would seek to amend it.” [Ben Lefebvre and Nick Juliano, “Exclusive: Zinke linked to real estate deal with Halliburton chairman,” Politico, 06/19/18]

Ryan Zinke used his position as a state legislator to support the Great Veterans Peace Park Foundation while he was also on its board. Zinke "helped pass a bill through" the Montana Legislature clarifying that cemetery grounds could be leased for other purposes before securing cemetery land for the Veterans Peace Park. Zinke also offered to advocate for a crosswalk that would improve access to the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park.

"When it was discovered that city law precluded using any portion of cemetery land for a purpose other than as a cemetery, Zinke, a Republican state senator from Whitefish, helped pass a bill through the Legislature clarifying that a portion of cemetery grounds unsuitable for
use as a cemetery may be used for other public purposes." [Lynette Hintze, "Whitefish Cemetery Land OK'd for Park," *Daily Inter Lake*, 07/20/11]

In an email regarding the GNVPFF's lease of part of the city's cemetery to Whitefish City Manager Chuck Stearns, Ryan Zinke said, "as u know, it took a change in law to technically use cemetery land for other purposes even though it is of no value and just contains a road and slope. The longer lease the better." [Ryan Zinke email to Chuck Stearns, City of Whitefish, 04/07/16]

Ryan Zinke, in 2012, asked the city of Whitefish to support a pedestrian crosswalk near his nearby property that would provide access to the Veterans Peace Park. "In return, Zinke will provide a key property easement for a future bike path and stand as an advocate for the crosswalk at the state legislative level." [Matt Baldwin, "Push Made for US 93 West Crosswalk," *Whitefish Pilot*, 06/13/12]

One resident called an Independence Day celebration at the Veterans Peace Park "a fiasco" and suggested that its board members provided "distractions" involving small fireworks displays, and that "several accidents occurred and people were harmed."

Whitefish resident Mitch Linne said the 2016 Independence Day Celebration at the Veterans Peace Park was a "disaster" due to distractions provided by members of the Peace Park board. Linne says the event was overcrowded, noisy, and dangerous, and that "several accidents occurred and people were harmed." [Mitch Linne, "Letter: A Formerly Quiet Spot to Enjoy Fireworks," *Daily Inter Lake*, 07/08/16]

Whitefish City Manager Chuck Stearns said a fourth of July event "overwhelmed" the park, and said he didn't think Zinke was planning on doing other events "of that large a scale" in the future. [City Council Meeting Video, Whitefish City Council, 04/18/16 [02:03:19]]

In 2009, Ryan Zinke met with three state legislative candidates to discuss endorsing them and told them he "needed some signage" for his park. Zinke endorsed the candidates, who all pledged to contribute to the park foundation through their campaigns. Zinke and the candidates claimed the "arrangement was not a quid pro quo," because "Zinke's endorsement was an honor and very important." Although Zinke suggested the contributions would fund signage for the park, that signage does not appear to exist.

Ryan Zinke, in 2009, met with Chris Hyatt, Bill Kahle, and Phil Mitchell, candidates for Montana legislature, to discuss endorsing them. Zinke brought the candidates to his Peace Park, and "while enjoying views of the lake," Zinke told them he "needed some signage for the park." All three candidates pledged to give contributions to the park foundation though their campaigns, ranging from $100 to $170, and Zinke endorsed them. Both Zinke and the candidates said the "arrangement was not a quid pro quo," because "Zinke's endorsement was an honor and very important." [Richard Hannes, "More than $38K on City Election," *Whitefish Pilot*, 12/03/09]
Ryan Zinke planned to establish a small skating pond in the park, but it "blew up into a huge pond," which he is still "trying to deal with."

Whitefish City Councilman David Taylor says, "He wanted to do a small pond, and it blew up into a huge pond, so he's trying to deal with that—drain it down. I'm not sure he's at with his development plan. I'm sure he's got something in his mind at the end of the day, but I'm not seeing it." [City Council Meeting Video, Whitefish City Council, 06/20/16 [02:04:10]]

Whitefish City Councilman David Taylor says Zinke wanted to turn the pond into "a little skating pond," but it "got bigger than he thought it was going to get." [City Council Meeting Video, Whitefish City Council, 06/20/16 02:10:05]

**Ryan Zinke had the founding documents for the Great Veterans Peace Park Foundation notarized in Santa Barbara, California.**

Ryan Zinke's 2007 Articles of Incorporation for the Great Veterans Peace Park Foundation were notarized in Santa Barbara, California. [Articles of Incorporation, Montana Secretary of State, accessed 10/26/17]

**At one point the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation had over half a million dollars in total assets, including real estate, equipment, and cash. The park foundation has received donations from the Zinke's, the Whitefish Community Foundation, and BNSF.**

At the end of 2016, GNVPPF reported having $531,885 in total assets, including $510,557 in land, buildings, and equipment and $21,328 in cash. [Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, IRS form 990, 2013]

The 2013 990 lists a $10,000 contribution from the Zinke's, a donation of land from BNSF appraised at $130,000, as well as $10,000 in cash. [Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, IRS form 990, 2013]

The Whitefish Community Foundation, in 2011, awarded the Veterans Peace Park Foundation a grant to pay for a "foundation gate," new signs, and a perimeter fence. ["$300,000 in grants awarded," Whitefish Pilot, 09/09/11]

The Whitefish Community Foundation awarded the Veterans Peace Park Foundation a grant in 2008. ["Food Bank Director gets the Fish Award," Whitefish Pilot, 11/13/08]

**The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation owns two parcels of land with a combined value of $231,105.**

The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation owns two parcels of land with a total appraised value of $293,105. It transferred another parcel of land to Judith A. Schooley in 2016. [Flathead County]
GNVPPF owns one parcel that is 4.010 acres. It was worth $123,905 in 2015 and is worth $138,149 in 2017. [Property Search for Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, Flathead County, accessed 10/23/17]

GNVPPF owns another parcel that is 7.44 acres. It was worth $159,920 in 2015 and is worth $154,956 in 2017. [Property Search for Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, Flathead County, accessed 10/23/17]

The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation has spent $6,000 on travel expenses, $2,000 on computer equipment, and purchased a tractor for $30,000. In 2010, the nonprofit reported a negative cash balance.

The 2013 990 lists the following expenses: $6,000 in travel expenses, $2000 for computer equipment, and a tractor purchased for $30,000. [Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, IRS form 990, 2013]

In 2010 the foundation had a "negative cash balance of $1,940 due to survey and other expenses." [Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, IRS 990, 2010]

The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation's net assets were $560,294 at the end of 2016, yet the foundation only spends a few thousand dollars annually.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year [FY Ending]</th>
<th>Net Assets at the End of the Year</th>
<th>Total Revenue</th>
<th>Total Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$560,294</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
<td>$19,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$543,854</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$6,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$529,660</td>
<td>$140,000*</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$399,660</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011**</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$369,060</td>
<td>$197,000</td>
<td>$4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$176,260</td>
<td>$520</td>
<td>$360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ProPublica
*This number is scratched off in pen on the 990. It may be $140,000 or $150,000.
**This 990 is not on the database.

All board members of the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, as of 2016, were related to Ryan Zinke except Brian "Tim" Grattan. Tim Grattan is a Whitefish land developer who "bought and developed Grouse and Lion mountains, and built...the Whitefish Golf Course." He formed the political group Sensible Land Use [SLU] in 2007 "to battle the final draft" of a Whitefish "ordinance that would regulate development near bodies of water and
on steep slopes." The group "sent out flyers to nearly every residence in Whitefish characterizing the ordinance as a 'heavy-handed property grab.'" Montana's Commissioner of Political Practices said "that the activities of SLU were legal, even though it had not registered as a political action committee, because while SLU appears to be campaigning against the current city council members and the mayor, it's not supporting any specific candidates." Grattan describes himself as "'a fly in the ointment.'" He said, "'to the city, I'm just a greedy land developer. I am, and have been, kind of a lightning rod, and somewhat polarizing.'"

All board members of the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, as of 2016, are related to Ryan Zinke except one: Tim Grattan. ["Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation," IRS Form 990, 2016]

Brian "Tim" Grattan, born May 16, 1938, is a Whitefish land developer who "bought and developed Grouse and Lion mountains, and built the south half the Whitefish Golf Course ["Interview with Brian T. Grattan," Veterans History Project; Ryan Murray, "NOBODY IS BULLETPROOF' — WHITEFISH DEVELOPER SURVIVES MALE BREAST CANCER," Daily Inter Lake, 10/14/14]

Tim Grattan "was responsible for the development of Grouse Mountain and Grouse Mountain Estates in the city, and of the Lion Mountain subdivision just outside the city. He also has served many years on the board of directors of Winter Sports Inc., working to make the Big Mountain ski area among the best in the country." [Jerry Hanson, "A History Lesson On Tim Grattan [Letter to the Editor]," Whitefish Pilot, 10/01/09]

Tim Grattan formed the political group Sensible Land Use [SLU] in July 2007 "to battle the final draft" of a Whitefish "ordinance that would regulate development near bodies of water and on steep slopes." The ordinance would affect "millions of dollars of prime real estate" in Whitefish. In September 2007, "SLU sent out flyers to nearly every residence in Whitefish characterizing the ordinance as a 'heavy-handed property grab.'" Montana's Commissioner of Political Practices, Dennis "Unsworth concluded that the activities of SLU were legal, even though it had not registered as a political action committee, because while SLU appears to be campaigning against the current city council members and the mayor, it's not supporting any specific candidates." Grattan claimed, "'I have not been involved in any part of campaigning, endorsing [...] I've not taken a position on the politics of it at all. I'm just focused on what I think is a lousy ordinance.'" [Michael Jamison, "Town mulls regulations on lobbying," Missoulian, 09/23/07; Paul Peters, "Faceless issues," Missoula Independent, 10/11/07]

Tim Grattan describes himself as "'a fly in the ointment.'" He said, "'to the city, I'm just a greedy land developer. I am, and have been, kind of a lightning rod, and somewhat polarizing.'" [Michael Jamison, "Town mulls regulations on lobbying," Missoulian, 09/23/07]

The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, which was “established by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke” and is currently headed by his wife, “is playing a key role” in and “providing crucial assistance,” including land for a parking lot, for a Whitefish commercial
real-estate project financially backed by Halliburton Chairman David Lesar that includes a proposed microbrewery. Halliburton is an “oil-services giant that stands to benefit from any of the Interior Department’s decisions to open public lands for oil exploration or change standards for drilling.” Under Ryan “Zinke, the department…[in 2017] rescinded Obama-era rules that restricted fracking on federal land, a decision that directly benefited Halliburton.” The Whitefish city planner “said…that the project’s developer suggested to him that the microbrewery would be set aside for Ryan and Lola Zinke to own and operate.” Ryan “Zinke acknowledged meeting with Halliburton Chairman Dave Lesar and other developers in his Interior Department office” about this project before Lola Zinke agreed to turn over Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation land for the abovementioned parking lot. In addition to the microbrewery, “the Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development,” and “real estate agents say the Zinke-owned land…would stand to increase substantially in value.” The involvement of Secretary Zinke and his “family in a multimillion-dollar project funded by the chairman of an energy-services giant…is ripe with conflicts of interest, ethics experts say.” The Interior Department’s inspector general “launched a full investigation into” this matter. Ryan Zinke called it “fake news.”

The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, which was “established by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke” and is currently headed by his wife, “is playing a key role in a real-estate deal backed by” Halliburton Chairman David Lesar.

The “group funded by…Lesar…is planning a large commercial development on a former industrial site near the center of the Zinkes’ hometown of Whitefish” that “would include a hotel and retail shops. There also would be a microbrewery — a business first proposed in 2012 by Ryan Zinke and for which he lobbied town officials for half a decade. The Whitefish city planner, David Taylor, said…that the project’s developer suggested to him that the microbrewery would be set aside for Ryan and Lola Zinke to own and operate.”

The “foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation.” In her capacity as president of the foundation, Lola Zinke “signed an official letter of intent to allow the construction of a parking lot for customers of the microbrewery and other businesses on the parkland, which the developers included in their proposal.” [Ben Lefebvre and Nick Juliano, “Exclusive: Zinke linked to real estate deal with Halliburton chairman,” Politico, 06/09/18]

Ryan “Zinke acknowledged meeting with Halliburton Chairman Dave Lesar and other developers in his Interior Department office, but said his involvement was limited to providing them background on the nonprofit and the land it owned” about a month before Lola Zinke signed the “letter of intent to allow the developers to build a parking lot on” Great Northern
Veterans Peace Park Foundation land. [Ben Lefebvre, “Zinke seeks to explain meeting with Halliburton chairman,” Politico, 06/27/18]

“The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value.”

“The involvement of the interior secretary’s family in a multimillion-dollar project funded by the chairman of an energy-services giant...is rife with conflicts of interest, ethics experts say, especially since Zinke’s job as interior secretary makes him the custodian of more than 500 million acres of public land and head of a department that sets technical and safety standards for pipelines and drilling.”

Halliburton is an “oil-services giant that stands to benefit from any of the Interior Department’s decisions to open public lands for oil exploration or change standards for drilling.” It “is the largest American oil-services company, drilling wells and building rigs. It stands to benefit from any new oil and gas exploration on public land or offshore — something the Trump administration has promised to promote — and the company has frequent dealings with the Interior Department in its regulatory capacity.” Under Ryan “Zinke, the department...[in 2017] rescinded Obama-era rules that restricted fracking on federal land, a decision that directly benefited Halliburton.”

“Marilyn Glynn, who was acting director of the Office of Government Ethics under former President George W. Bush, said the foundation’s involvement in a deal backed by the chairman of Halliburton is clearly inappropriate and, at minimum, should force Zinke to recuse himself from any policy decisions affecting Halliburton.”

“Executive branch officials such as Zinke are subject to conflict-of-interest rules requiring that they recuse themselves from government decisions involving people with whom they or their close relatives have a financial relationship. Craig Holman, a specialist in federal ethics laws for the advocacy group Public Citizen, said Lola Zinke’s efforts to help the development backed by Lesar would amount to a financial relationship.” [Ben Lefebvre and Nick Juliano, “Exclusive: Zinke linked to real estate deal with Halliburton chairman,” Politico, 06/09/18]

Ryan Zinke called the reporting on this story “fake news.” [Ben Lefebvre, “Zinke seeks to explain meeting with Halliburton chairman,” Politico, 06/27/18]

The Interior Department’s inspector general “launched a full investigation into” this matter. [Ben Lefebvre, “Interior watchdog opens probe of land deal linking Zinke, Halliburton chairman,” Politico, 07/18/18]

Housing
Ryan Zinke was sued by his landlord for "wrongfully abandoning" his apartment and not paying rent.

On October 20, 2016, Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Washington DC filed a lawsuit against the Zinkes for "breach of the Residential Lease Agreement dated November 25, 2014." According to the complaint, Ryan Zinke and his wife "agreed to a tenancy term of one [1] year, from February 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016," but then "attempted to repudiate the Lease and voluntarily surrender possession of the Property effective May 1, 2015." The complaint alleges that they owe the "plaintiff in excess of $66,000 in unpaid rent, including late fees, under the Lease."

Ryan Zinke and his wife responded that when they lived at the apartment they "made numerous oral and written demands to [the] plaintiff to remedy dangerous conditions." They claimed that they had informed their landlord "in writing that the property's uneven floors and staircases rendered the property unsafe." The dangerous conditions included "uneven and severely bowed floors; insufficient staircase railings; dangerously slippery front porch; and dangerously slippery sidewalk leading into the backdoor of the home." They alleged that these conditions were "too dangerous" for the family, saying that "Mr. and Mrs. Zinke both fell and were injured multiple times due to the dangerous conditions on the front porch and rear walkway." As a result of their landlord's breach "of the implied warranty of habitability," Ryan Zinke and his wife claimed that they were "entitled to an abatement of rent." [Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Washington DC, et al, v. Zinke, et al, Case No. 2016 CA 007772]

Just three months after moving into his DC apartment, in 2015, Ryan Zinke's landlord filed a complaint accusing Zinke and his wife of "breaching their contract," alleging that the couple "'wrongfully abandoned'" the property and stopped paying rent. The case was settled in mid-June 2017. The terms of the settlement are confidential. [Chris D'Angelo, "Ryan Zinke Settles Lawsuit Over 'Uninhabitable' $5,800-A-Month Rental House," Huffington Post, 08/09/17]

On November 5, 2018, in front of Ryan Zinke’s Washington, DC, residence, there was a confrontation with neighbors over a “Mercedes SUV [that] had been idling for two hours and was taking up three parking spots.” Someone who “appeared drunk” emerged from Zinke’s home claiming to be Ryan Zinke. A few minutes later U.S. Park Police arrived “fully riot-gear ed out,” a neighbor said. Neighbors assumed the Zinke impersonator “had called them, as Park Police fall under Zinke’s department. But it turns out it was the secretary himself. Interior spokes woman Faith Vander Voort said in an email that Zinke was inside his house at the time, watching football and barbecuing with friends. He alerted his protective security detail ‘about a suspicious individual staking out his home and guests.’” Park Police spokesman Eduardo Delgado “said that when police responded to Zinke’s call, they did not find a suspicious person. The idling car in front of the secretary’s house was gone, he said.” The Department of the Interior “blamed the incident on ‘suspicious’ people who interrupted a home barbecue by lurking outside Zinke’s home and yelling profanities about President Donald Trump — which neighbors said did not happen.” The Zinke impersonator, “along with three or four other men, all left the house and piled into the Mercedes” shortly thereafter. “A
government ethics expert said the incident raised questions about whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was using government resources for personal purposes.”

On November 5, 2018, “in front of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s home” a “Mercedes SUV had been idling for two hours and was taking up three parking spots.”

“Lincoln Park resident Gina Arlotto asked the driver to turn off the engine and back up to free two parking spots,” but the driver refused. When “neighbor Paul Legere…arrived, he too asked the driver to move to create a parking space. Again, the driver refused.” Legere said the driver “wouldn’t identify himself. He said he was waiting for his boss.’ That’s when a man who appeared to be about 6 feet tall, white and about 30 years old emerged from Zinke’s front door. ‘He said, ‘I’m Ryan Zinke.’ I said, ‘Dude, you’re not Zinke.’ I asked, ‘Who are you?’” Legere recounted. He said his name was Scott. ‘Scott what?’ According to Legere, the man wheeled around toward the house without an answer and muttered as he walked to the front door.”

The man who “impersonated the secretary…appeared drunk.” Paul “Legere said the man appeared to have been drinking and would give only his first name.”

“Scott…told the driver to leave, which he did, Legere said. About five minutes later, another vehicle dropped off one more man, who went into Zinke’s house carrying two bags, and five minutes after that the Park Police showed up in two SUVs, ‘fully riot-geared out,’ Legere said.”

At “about 9:30 p.m., U.S. Park Police arrived. Neighbors assumed the man named ‘Scott’ had called them, as Park Police fall under Zinke’s department. But it turns out it was the secretary himself. Interior spokeswoman Faith Vander Voort said in an email that Zinke was inside his house at the time, watching football and barbecuing with friends. He alerted his protective security detail ‘about a suspicious individual staking out his home and guests.’”

Park Police spokesman Eduardo Delgado “said that when police responded to Zinke’s call, they did not find a suspicious person. The idling car in front of the secretary’s house was gone, he said.”

“The Interior Department blamed the incident on ‘suspicious’ people who interrupted a home barbecue by lurking outside Zinke’s home and yelling profanities about President Donald Trump — which neighbors said did not happen.”

“I know for a fact no one at all yelled profanities about the President OR the Secretary,”” Arlotto “wrote in an email.”

“The guest who impersonated Zinke, along with three or four other men, all left the house and piled into the Mercedes around 10 p.m. ‘I just think it’s outrageous that he called the Park Police on a neighbor,’ Arlotto said. ‘I felt that he wanted to harass us.’”
“A government ethics expert said the incident raised...questions about whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was using government resources for personal purposes.”

“If the guest made use of the park police with Zinke’s knowledge, it could be construed as Zinke using his office for personal gain, said Marilyn Glynn, who was acting director of the Office of Government Ethics under former President George W. Bush." [Ben Lefebvre and Nick Juliano, “Neighbors: Zinke houseguest impersonates secretary, calls U.S. Park Police to home,” Politico, 11/06/18; Juliet Eilperin, Darryl Fears and Lisa Rein, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke called police on his neighbors Monday night in a kerfuffle outside his Capitol Hill home,” Washington Post, 11/06/18]

**Polarizing Political Insider Before Becoming Secretary of the Interior**

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, praised Vladimir Putin. On Russia trying to help Donald Trump win the presidential election, Ryan Zinke said, "I think that's folly," before asking "what's the motive?" He went on to say, if a foreign country "hacks us...we have to immediately retaliate."


On Russia trying to help Donald Trump win the presidential election, Ryan Zinke said, "I think that's folly. At the end of the day, what's the motive?" He added, "If someone hacks us, especially a foreign country, we have to immediately retaliate." [“Catch Ryan on Fox and Friends 12/13/16” Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT) via YouTube, (2:43)]

**Ryan Zinke called Hillary Clinton "'the antichrist'" at a political fund-raiser.**

In 2014 "Ryan Zinke...called former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton the 'Antichrist' in a...campaign appearance, according to a local newspaper." [Cameron Joseph, "House candidate calls Clinton 'Antichrist,'" The Hill, 01/31/14]

"I was at a small fund-raiser in Bigfork, Mont. You give your little speech, and at the end of it they said, 'What are the candidates that you think are going to be on the Republican side?' And they said, 'What about Hillary?' I said, 'You mean the Antichrist?'" [Emmarie Huetteman, "Ryan Zinke of Montana Brings Lessons from Navy SEALS to Washington," New York Times, 03/23/15]

**Ryan Zinke thinks Benghazi is worse than Watergate.**
Ryan Zinke, in 2013, said on his radio show, "I think" Benghazi "is much worse than Watergate in that no one was killed in Watergate. What we're seeing is a willful and knowing lie in deception of the American public." ["Commander Z Talks to former Navy SEAL and author Brandon Webb," Radio Active, 05/17/19, (3:00)]

Ryan Zinke said in reference to President Obama, "do I think...this President is a good man? The answer is no." Zinke thinks President Obama is "lawless" and acts unconstitutionally. He does not think President Obama is truthful and supported impeaching him.

In 2015, Ryan Zinke responded to a man at a town hall meeting who said President Obama "gets away with what he does simply because of his skin color." Zinke responded, "I'm a Christian so I try not to hate anybody," adding, "do I think...this President is a good man? The answer is no." [David Jay, “Zinke answers questions about health care, security and the President” KTVQ News via Archive.org, accessed 07/16/18]

Ryan Zinke, in 2016, said after an audience member mentioned that he does not know President Obama's phone number, "Obama's number is 1-800-BAD-MAN." [“Congressman Ryan Zinke Steamboat Institute Global Security Summit,” Rick Akin via YouTube, 01/24/16 (57:24)]

Ryan Zinke, in 2016, said that he does not know President Obama's phone number, "Obama's number is 1-800-BAD-MAN." [“Congressman Ryan Zinke Steamboat Institute Global Security Summit,” Rick Akin via YouTube, 01/24/16 (57:24)]

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, said, "when my president gives a SOTU address, I want to say, 'yes, he's truthful.' And right now, I'm not getting that." [“Montana's U.S. House seat debate,” Billing Gazette via YouTube, 06/10/14, (21:31)]

At a 2014 debate Ryan Zinke said, "I do believe we can put the president on the run. He's had six years of doing his will to this country, and I believe that's intentional dismantling of American power both domestically and abroad." He added, "so is impeachment in the cards? Let's hope we have the votes." The moderator, who was "not completely satisfied with Zinke's response, replied, 'Is that a yes or a no?'" Zinke responded, "Yes." [Amanda Terkel, “Montana GOP House Candidates Push For Obama Impeachment,” Huffington Post, 06/02/14]

In 2015 he said, "as clever as our founders were, and they were enormously clever, I don't think they ever perceived of a president that would be as lawless, and at times, unconstitutional, and yet so popular. I'm often asked, 'well, just impeach the president,' and I go, 'well, look at the votes in the senate.'" [“Talk Back With Congressman Ryan Zinke and UM Law Proffessor Jeff Renz,” Newstalk KGVO via YouTube, (12:35)]

Ryan Zinke regularly hosted a self-proclaimed "birther" and purveyor of conspiracy theories regarding President Obama on his radio show and described the man as "a worthy cause." Zinke continued, "Truth does matter. Some things are worth fighting for." Zinke also questioned whether President Obama said he was a foreigner on his college application.

In 2013, Ryan Zinke had a self-described birther on his radio show. Captain Larry Bailey said on the show, "one of my points of pride is that Obama, without using my name, said, 'one of the leaders of the military groups that are against us has identified himself as birther.' That was
me! I did it." Bailey then said that he was unable to get contributions from Karl Rove for his PAC, Special Operations Speak Out, because he is a birther.

In response to Bailey's birther comments Ryan Zinke said, "and the college records. Why not release them? I'm interested. Did he say he was a foreigner? And did he get a scholarship?"

Bailey then said a "black Muslim" with ties to the Saudi government arranged for President Obama to get admitted to Harvard, and that the Saudis paid his tuition. In response, Zinke repeated that he wants to see President Obama's college transcripts. ["Commander Z with Capt. Larry Baily," Radioactive Broadcasting Network, 07/03/13, [20:00]]

Bailey went on to say Dreams from My Real Father gives a "water tight case" that President Obama's father is not Barack Obama, Sr., but is in fact Frank Marshall Davis, who Bailey describes as "a pornographic member of the Communist party." ["Commander Z with Capt. Larry Baily," Radioactive Broadcasting Network, 07/03/13, [23:00]]

During the interview, Ryan Zinke said to Bailey, "you're certainly a worthy cause for patriots out there. Truth does matter. Some things are worth fighting for." ["Commander Z with Capt. Larry Baily," Radioactive Broadcasting Network, 07/03/13, [25:00]]

Ryan Zinke, while appearing on "The Birther Report," said President Obama "has been the worst in our history."

Ryan Zinke appeared on a radio show called "The Birther Report" in March 2016. On the show, he said, "I think this president has been the worst in our history." ["U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke: Obama Impeachment; Cruz Article II Eligibility In Question," Birther Report on YouTube, 03/09/16 [06:00]]

Ryan Zinke listens and appeared on a right-wing radio show sponsored by a wholesale survival business. A Tea Party group advertised on the show on the day Zinke was on the show. The ad called President Obama a Marxist who uses "Gestapo tactics." The ad says "Hitler would be proud" of President Obama.

Ryan Zinke, in 2013, appeared on the Hagmann & Hagmann Report, which is a right-wing radio show sponsored by American Survival Wholesale. American Survival Wholesale sells survival goods, such as green beans that will last "20 plus years." The Hagmanns encourage listeners to buy these green beans because of "foreign entanglements, domestic unrest, economic uncertainty, and unemployment."

An ad on this show sponsored by the 21st Century Tea Party Patriots on the day Zinke was on the show warned that "the Obama campaign has launched attack squads disguised as truth teams dedicated to silencing all political dissent carried over the Internet that criticizes the Marxist Obama." The 21st Century Tea Party Patriots claim in the ad that the Obama campaign uses "Gestapo tactics." The ad concludes that "Hitler would be proud" of President Obama.
Ryan Zinke opposed providing fast-track authorization for the Trans Pacific Partnership [TPP] trade deal, because he does not trust President Obama "to make deals on behalf of the American people."

The Trade Priorities and Accountability [TPA] Act was legislation to provide fast-track authorization of TPP. Ryan Zinke, in 2015, released a statement claiming that he had maintained "steadfast opposition to the version of TPA the Senate passed in...[the previous month] because he believes President Obama cannot be trusted to make deals on behalf of the American people." However, Zinke added an amendment that would "create a bipartisan panel, selected by Congress," to "sit in the trade negotiations and report directly back to Congress." He supported TPA with his amendment. [Press Release, Ryan Zinke accessed via archive.org, 06/12/15; Tom Lutey, "Zinke changes course, supports presidential trade authority," Billings Gazette, 06/12/15]

Ryan Zinke said, "'Barack Obama...hijacked the U.S. Constitution.'" These words, according to the Billings Gazette, are "polarizing and extreme." The Billings Gazette opined, "the most important thing in Zinke's mind isn't running the country and finding solutions; instead, it's finding someone who will stand up against Barack Obama. That's good if you're trying to pander to any already frenzied base. But, if Zinke really cared so much about the country, wouldn't his first priority be to find someone who will work with the President?"

Ryan Zinke said, "'Barack Obama and the Washington bureaucrats...have hijacked the U.S. Constitution.'" These words, according to the Billings Gazette, "seem polarizing and extreme."

"The rhetoric employed by Zinke is an us-versus-them mentality that seems to have landed us in a constant cycle of shutdown threats.

The most important thing in Zinke's mind isn't running the country and finding solutions; instead, it's finding someone who will stand up against Barack Obama. That's good if you're trying to pander to any already frenzied base. But, if Zinke really cared so much about the country, wouldn't his first priority be to find someone who will work with the President?"

After all, "leadership is rising above politics to find solutions," the Billings Gazette concluded. ["Gazette Opinion: The shutdown caucuses and the politics of polarization," Billings Gazette, 09/30/15]

In 2016, after the shootings of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Ryan Zinke said, "I mean two weeks ago, when you were in an elevator with a black guy — not even a second look, right? Now you get in an elevator with a black guy and a policeman, something's changed in how you view that small trip up the elevator."
In July 2016, after the shootings of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Ryan Zinke said, "I mean two weeks ago, when you were in an elevator with a black guy — not even a second look, right? Now you get in an elevator with a black guy and a policeman, something's changed in how you view that small trip up the elevator." He also said "the fabric of America is being stretched and hey, this thing could rip." [Joe Perticone, “GOP Congressman: 'Something Has Changed' on Race Relations Since Dallas and Baton Rouge,” IJR, 07/18/16]

Ryan Zinke has taken campaign contributions from the founder of "a white supremacist group cited by...Dylann Roof" and from Richard Spencer, director of the National Policy Institute, which "bills itself as a think-tank dedicated to the 'heritage, identity, and future of European people.'"

In 2014, "Earl Holt, the leader of the Council of Conservative Citizens, made a $500 donation to Zinke's election campaign." The Council of Conservative Citizens is described as "a white supremacist group cited by Charleston' convicted church murderer Dylann Roof. A manifesto 'purportedly written by Roof says he learned about 'brutal black on white murders' from the Council of Conservative Citizens website." Zinke's spokesperson said he would donate the money "to a fund set up for the families of the victims of the Charleston shooting."

Zinke also received a $500 donation "from Richard Spencer, director of the National Policy Institute now based in Whitefish that bills itself as a think-tank dedicated to the 'heritage, identity, and future of European people.'" Zinke's spokesperson said he would also donate this $500. [ “Zinke to donate funds from white supremacist,” Associated Press, 06/22/15]

Ryan Zinke endorsed Taylor Rose, a Montana state legislative candidate who was "deeply active in white nationalism." Rose was affiliated with Youth for Western Civilization [YWC], "a now-defunct college organization" that the Southern Poverty Law Center [SPLC] called "'an overt white nationalist organization with multiple connections to white supremacists.'" Taylor also authored a book in which he "refers to Islamic peoples as 'third worlders with barbaric practices.'" The book was "promoted by the League of the South," which SPLC called a "'neo-Confederate hate group.'" Ryan Zinke's photo was featured on a Taylor Rose campaign pamphlet, with a quote from Zinke that said, "I need you to send great leaders like Taylor Rose to Helena." Zinke later said he did not endorse the candidate.

Ryan Zinke endorsed Taylor Rose, who "has been deeply active in white nationalism." [Keegan Hankes, "Meet the New Wave of Extremists Gearing Up for the 2016 Elections," Southern Poverty Law Center, 10/19/15]

"Republican House District 3 candidate Taylor Rose's past affiliations with controversial and allegedly nationalist or white-supremacist organizations have raised alarms by watchdog groups as election day draws near. But Rose denies he, or the groups, have any such bias and he's simply being attacked by left-wing organizations. One group Rose was affiliated with was Youth for Western Civilization, a now-defunct college organization. Rose served as vice president of the YWC chapter at his Alma mater, Liberty University, a private conservative Christian college
founded by the Reverend Jerry Falwell. The Southern Poverty Law Center, in an article Oct. 3 called YWC 'an overt white nationalist organization with multiple connections to white supremacists" that 'often used code words such as "cultural identity" and "racial chauvinists" to disguise its racism, arguing that white people face rampant discrimination at the hands of multiculturalism.' The law center is a long-time anti hate group. Rose recently denied the groups are white supremacist.'

"Rose also authored a book in 2012 titled 'Return of the Right: How the Political Right is Taking Back Western Civilization.' [...] In a chapter titled Return of the Crusader and the Response to Islamism, Rose refers to Islamic peoples as 'third worlders with barbaric practices.' Rose accuses Islamists of 'hostile protest against traditional UK institutions' and equates all demonstrators with terrorism, writing 'mosques that produce such "activists" [terrorists]... are located inside the UK.'" The book was promoted by the League of the South, which identifies itself as a Southern Nationalist organization. In the group’s Core Beliefs Statement, League of the South says 'we stand for our own sublime cultural inheritance and seek to separate ourselves from the cultural rot that is American culture.' But the Southern Poverty Law Center, in a recent article on Rose's affiliations, called League of the South a 'neo-Confederate hate group.'"

Taylor Rose was "vetted by the Flathead Republican Central Committee. He said was endorsed by Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke, as well as a number of senators and representatives. But when the Hungry Horse News contacted Zinke's campaign, it said it did not endorse Rose." [Anna Arvidson, "Southern Poverty Law Center calls out Taylor Rose," Hungry Horse News, 10/26/16]

Ryan Zinke's photo was featured on a Taylor Rose campaign pamphlet, with a quote from Zinke that said, "I need you to send great leaders like Taylor Rose to Helena." [Denise Juneau for Congress, Press Release, 10/28/16]
Ryan Zinke has taken several photos with Sebastian Gorka, "a former Breitbart editor with Islamophobic views and ties to neo-Nazi extremists."


Sebastian Gorka is "a former Breitbart editor with Islamophobic views and ties to neo-Nazi extremists." "During the decade and a half Gorka spent in Hungary, he was enmeshed in a web of ultraright, anti-Semitic and even Nazi-like parties, politicians and media outlets." [Bob Dreyfuss, "Sebastian Gorka, the West Wing's Phony Foreign-Policy Guru," Rolling Stone, 08/10/17]

Ryan Zinke, "when asked about those attempting to destroy or remove Confederate monuments," told Breitbart News that "'history is important' and it should not be rewritten." He advocated for "'recognizing that two sides fought'" in the Civil War and "'recognizing [the] historical significance of a change in our country.'"

"U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told Breitbart News that 'history is important' and it should not be rewritten when asked about those attempting to destroy or remove Confederate monuments while touring Antietam National Battlefield on Wednesday in western Maryland." He said, "'As an example, what did the battle of Antietam bring us? One is that it was the deadliest battle in the history of our country. But also, one could argue successfully, it also brought the Emancipation Proclamation. [...] So there is goodness that came out of this battlefield [...] Recognizing that two sides fought, recognizing [the] historical significance of a change in our country... so I'm an advocate for recognizing history as it is. Don't rewrite history. Understand it for what it is and teach our kids the importance of looking at our magnificent history as a country and why we are who we are.'" [Amanda House, "Ryan Zinke: Activists Shouldn't 'Rewrite History' by Removing Confederate Monuments," Breitbart, 07/05/17]

Breitbart is a "conservative news site" that executive chairman Steve Bannon has called a "'platform for the alt-right.'" ["The Latest: Steve Bannon returns to Breitbart News site," The Washington Post, 08/19/17; David Weigel, "Steve Bannon may be out, but the 'alt-right' says their movement will continue," Washington Post, 08/18/17]

Ryan Zinke thinks controversial Congressman Louie Gohmert is "a terrific guy" and "his message needs to be heard."

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, said, "I had Louie Gohmert with me because I think his message needs to be heard. I don't agree with everything Louie says, but I think he's a terrific guy."
[Representative Ryan Zinke Open Phones July 31, accessed via Youtube, 08/05/15 (11:00)]

Former Speaker of the House John Boehner held fund-raisers for Ryan Zinke.


Following Hurricane Maria, "Puerto Rico turned to a little-known Montana company," Whitefish Energy Holdings LLC, "to restore power rather than rely on a vast network of public power companies that usually comes to the rescue after disasters." Puerto Rico's government
awarded the contract in an "irregular way." The "public power association" confirmed that it "bypassed its vast resources by awarding the contract to Whitefish." The Interior Department suggested that Ryan Zinke did not have a professional relationship with Whitefish Energy, but when Zinke was in Congress he did numerous favors for the company.

"Facing the destruction of almost its entire electrical grid after Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico turned to a little-known Montana company," Whitefish Energy Holdings LLC, "to restore power rather than rely on a vast network of public power companies that usually comes to the rescue after disasters." [Marcus Stern, "Puerto Rico Turns to Unproven Montana Company for Massive Power Restoration Job, But No One Knows Why," The Weather Channel, 10/17/17]

Whitefish Energy, a "Whitefish-based power company... secured a $300 million contract to restore electricity to Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria." The contract spurred "questions from government agencies and Congress about why the 2-year-old operation from Montana was selected over larger, more experienced providers." The company has also "come under fire because of alleged ties to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, whose hometown is Whitefish." [Mackenzie Reiss, "Questions Arise About Whitefish Company's Puerto Rico Contract," Daily Inter Lake, 10/24/17]

On October 1, 2017, NBC Montana reported that Whitefish Energy Holdings would be "working to restore power in Puerto Rico after the island was devastated by Hurricane Maria." At the time, the company's CEO, Andy Techmanski, had "been in touch with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to try to free up more resources" for the project. [McKayla Haack, "Whitefish Energy working on Puerto Rico power grid," NBC Montana, 10/01/17]

Heather Swift, Secretary Zinke's spokesperson, has defended Secretary Zinke's relationship with Whitefish Energy CEO Andy Techmanski. According to Swift, "'The Zinkes and the Techmanskis know each other because they both live in a small town [population 6,000] where everyone knows everyone, and his son joined a friend who worked a summer job at one of their construction sites.'" [Mackenzie Reiss, "Questions Arise About Whitefish Company's Puerto Rico Contract," Daily Inter Lake, 10/24/17]

However, their relationship is more nuanced than was suggested by Heather Swift.

When he was a Congressman, Zinke's then-district director for the Flathead Valley, John Fuller, "represented Zinke's office during negotiations with Whitefish Energy and one of its investors, Brazilian-based Comtrafo. Comtrafo and Flathead Energy's Andy Techmanski were proposing using the C-FAC superfund site in Columbia Falls as a transformer manufacturing plant." [David Winter, "Zinke connection to Whitefish Energy," KULR, 10/30/17]

Also as a Congressman, Ryan Zinke reached out to Columbia Falls City Manager Susan Nicosia "about the project" to build a "transformer manufacturing plant at the former Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. site," that Whitefish Energy wanted to build. Zinke also wrote a letter to
Governor Steve Bullock about the site. [Seaborn Larson, "Energy Company Considering Flathead for New Plant," *Daily Inter Lake*, 12/16/16; Ryan Zinke to Steve Bullock, 03/04/15]

In addition, Columbia Falls City Manager Susan Nicosia, noted "that U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke's office has already reached out to her about the project." [Seaborn Larson, "Energy Company Considering Flathead for New Plant," *Daily Inter Lake*, 12/16/16]

Land and Related Issues Before Becoming Interior Secretary

When asked about drilling for fossil fuels on public lands, Ryan Zinke, in January 2017, said "we need an economy and jobs, too." He said he was an "all-of-the-above" energy advocate. He continued, we "have to understand that we need an economy" and that "energy is a part of that economy."

Zinke said on drilling for fossil fuels on public lands: "[a]gain, we need an economy and jobs, too." When Senator Bernie Sanders told Zinke "I'm taking your answer to be yes, we should allow fossil fuel to be drilled on public lands," Zinke responded "I'm an all-of-the-above energy - - and I want to be honest with you. I'm all-of-the-above." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke, after saying that he was a strong supporter of NEPA, said that "we also have to understand that we need an economy" and that "energy is a part of that economy." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

In discussing energy policy and regulation, Zinke said "I think we need to be prudent, and always, I think we need to review things to make sure we are doing it right. Because over time, the government keeps on getting bigger and bigger, the bureaucracy gets larger and larger, and we can't get something done. And I think we do as a nation, should look at everything with an objective eye to get things done." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said, "I know that energy production in accordance with reasonable regulation here in the United States is preferable to energy production with little or no regulation elsewhere." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Questionnaire, Ryan Zinke, 01/17/17]

On energy production, Zinke said, "we have to think globally on it, and it is better, and I've said this once before, but it is better to produce energy in America under reasonable regulation and get better over time than to watch it be produced overseas with no regulation. That is undisputable." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]
Ryan Zinke favored reforming the Antiquities Act, which he thinks has been abused.

Ryan Zinke, in 2016, said, "I think a monument, unfortunately, has to be changed – the rule, the law, because the intent was... to look at something precious in our country, and memorialize it for generations. But it wasn't intended to be a land grab, and the problem is we have a president who is intent on doing that." ["US Congressional GOP Candidate Debate MT AT Large,” Americans for Prosperity via YouTube, 04/20/16 (1:26:39)]

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, cosponsored a bill to "limit presidential monuments to 5,000 acres or less," ban them in parts of the West, and prohibit a president from designating or expanding a national monument without approval from "each community, county, municipality, city, town, or township with boundaries within or adjacent to the land affected by the designation," as well as approval from "the wildlife management and land management authorities and the governor of each state." Opponents said the bill would "require an unattainable level of public input and local approval conditions for the establishment of new national monuments."

Ryan Zinke, on November 5, 2015, became an original cosponsor of H.R. 3946, which was a bill to prohibit a president from designating or expanding a national monument "unless within one year before a designation the Department of the Interior consults with each community, county, municipality, city, town, or township with boundaries within or adjacent to the land affected by the designation" and obtains "concurrence for the designation from the governing body" in each municipality. The Department of the Interior would also need to gain concurrence from "the wildlife management and land management authorities and the governor of each state." The bill would "require property owners to consent to monument designations if their land would be surrounded by monument land," and "would bar a new monument where local residents opposed it." It "would limit presidential monuments to 5,000 acres or less." The bill would also prohibit "national monument designations within 18 western counties."

The bill's sponsor, Representative Paul Gosar, said that people living near national monuments "'deserve to have a strong voice regarding the use of public land near their communities,'" but opponents say the bill would "require an unattainable level of public input and local approval conditions for the establishment of new national monuments." [Shaun McKinnon, “What's rocking Sedona? A red rock monument, Obama, and a fistfight” The Republic, 12/9/15, Jenny Rowland, “Center for American Progress | The Rise to Power of the Congressional Anti-parks Caucus The Rise to Power of the Congressional Anti-parks Caucus,” Center for American Progress, 04/11/16]

In his confirmation hearing, Ryan Zinke said that when it comes to monument designation, "[i]f the state is upset about a monument, and they had a plan that's different from what was – what was done, then I think we should defer a lot of that to the state." He also said in his confirmation hearing that when it comes to creating a national monument under the
Antiquities Act, "I view it as absolutely critical to have state and local support on a monument that they are -- they participate in."

Zinke said, "I think, a monument, when it falls in a state, I think the state should have a say on it. To me, I've always kind of considered monuments, as I drive across Montana, pretty big state, between here and Chicago plus two miles. When you see a sign that says monument, generally, it's a -- I always envisioned as a battlefield, a location that deserves special recognition. Larger monuments that are millions of acres that don't have support of the community, you know, there's no doubt the President has the authority to amend a monument. It's always in the papers. It will be interesting to see whether the President has the authority to nullify a monument."

[U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said that, when it comes to monument designation, "[i]f the state is upset about a monument, and they had a plan that's different from what was -- what was done, then I think we should defer a lot of that to the state." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said that, when it comes to creating a national monument under the Antiquities Act "I view it as absolutely critical to have state and local support on a monument that they are -- they participate in. In the case of Salt Lake or Utah, I'm concerned about the schools and the funding mechanism to the schools are -- that's been largely taken away, as I understand. So that's a concern. But if you -- if you start at the local community level, the grassroots, and you build, and there's participation, then we get ahead of the problem... part of the planning process is go out, get community support, make sure your governor and your elected leaders are behind you, and then petition -- talk to the president who makes a decision, and everyone should be on the same page, or at least about on the same page." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

**Ryan Zinke, in 2015, co-signed a letter in opposition to creating the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument, arguing that a national monument designation would be "locking these lands away from public access" and would "be a step backwards."**

On February 18, 2015, Ryan Zinke and 24 other members of Congress sent a letter to President Barack Obama asking that he not use "an Executive Order to declare the Grand Canyon Watershed a National Monument," arguing that the two million acres inside the Grand Canyon Watershed were "already managed with great success through cooperation between federal and state agencies" and that these lands did not "need the additional layer of bureaucracy and restrictions that a National Monument designation would bring." They argued that a national monument designation would be "locking these lands away from public access" and would "be a step backwards." [Letter to President Barack Obama, 02/18/15]

**Ryan Zinke, on January 3, 2017, voted to "make it easier for...Congress to cede federal control of public lands" by changing "the way Congress calculates the cost of transferring federal**
lands to the states." The provision he voted for would prohibit Congress from considering the revenue lost "from energy production, logging, recreation or other uses" when it calculates the price of a land transfer bill by stating that "any legislation to dispose of public lands and natural resources would cost taxpayers exactly $0."

Ryan Zinke, on January 3, 2017, voted to pass H. Res. 5, which was a rules package that included a provision that "changed the way Congress calculates the cost of transferring federal lands to the states." This provision "will make it easier for members of the new Congress to cede federal control of public lands." The provision will prohibit Congress from considering the revenue lost "from energy production, logging, recreation or other uses" when it calculates the price of a land transfer bill by stating that "any legislation to dispose of public lands and natural resources would cost taxpayers exactly $0." It would allow Congress to "give federal lands to states without offsetting the spending cost" by removing "a procedural hurdle public lands advocates had come to rely on." [House Vote 6, H. Res. 5, 01/03/17, H. Res. 5- Adopting rules for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, 01/02/17, Timothy Cama, “House GOP moves to ease federal land transfers,” The Hill, 01/03/17, Juliet Eilperin, “House GOP rules change will make it easier to sell off federal land,” Washington Post, 01/03/17, Nicole Gentile, “The House just made it a lot easier to sell off national parks,” ThinkProgress, 01/5/17; Emily Yehle and Jennifer Yachnin, “Zinke scares greens by backing rule to ease land transfers,” E&E News, 1/5/17]

Ryan Zinke said he "will not tolerate selling our public lands," but he has been for and against transferring federal land to states. He thinks Montana manages public lands better than the federal government.

"In January 2015, Congressman Zinke told the Montana State Legislature, 'I will not tolerate selling our public lands.'" [“Public Lands,” Congressman Ryan Zinke accessed via Archive.org 07/17/18]

In July 2016, Zinke "resigned his position as a [Republican] party delegate, telling the Billings Gazette that he disagrees with his party's platform position that says federal public lands should be transferred to the states." [“Rep. Zinke, GOP Delegate Share Disagreement With Party Platform,” Montana Public Radio, accessed 07/17/18]

However, during his 2012 campaign for lieutenant governor Ryan Zinke signed the "Montana Constitutional Governance Pledge that calls for turning federal land over to the states." [“Neil Livingstone is the first Montana candidate to sign the Montana Constitutional Governance Pledge,” PolyMontana, accessed via archive.org, 07/17/18; John Adams, "Lewis’ ad takes aim at Zinke’s public land record,” Great Falls Tribune, 10/06/14]

In 2014, Ryan Zinke said on Montana's management of its state lands, "from every side the state is doing a better job and we have to look at why and what's the state doing that the feds aren't doing." [Tom Kuglin, “Transferring federal lands to Montana: Political theater or a viable option?,” Billings Gazette, 08/31/14]
Ryan Zinke, in 2014, said, "Montana does a better job of managing...forests than the Forest Service."

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, said, "Montana manages the forests, our forests, a lot better. You can ask all sides. Montana does a better job of managing...forests than the Forest Service." [“Zinke, 1/30/14, Hometown Helena Part 2,” mtalrawfootage via YouTube, 02/03/14 (02:00)]

Ryan Zinke said that he supports allowing state and local governments to manage federal public lands and that "federal ownership and local management can provide the proper balance among interests and be a viable model for management of certain federal lands." In his confirmation hearing, he said that in many Bureau of Land Management [BLM] decisions "we've been too heavy handed." On returning some conservation jurisdiction back to the states he said that generally "those living on the ground are in a better position and we should be an advocate and a partner in this rather than heavy handed and just dictate terms, particularly when we don't have a number."

Zinke said that he supports allowing state and local governments to manage federal public lands because "local and state officials will be more aware and respectful of the interests of their local constituents and that land will be managed differently based on local considerations." He also believes that "federal ownership and local management can provide the proper balance among interests and be a viable model for management of certain federal lands." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Questionnaire, Ryan Zinke, 01/17/17]

Zinke said, in terms of BLM decisions, "I think in many cases we've been too heavy handed as a nation and there's a separation between those living in the land and those managing it and unfortunately a lot of times those managing it, decisions are made here." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said, on returning some conservation jurisdiction back to the states, "[g]enerally, those living on the ground are in a better position and we should be an advocate and a partner in this rather than heavy handed and just dictate terms, particularly when we don't have a number." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said public land decisions should "be close to the land, and in some instances, in Utah, where you have 67 percent is BLM. You could [have] different management schemes on it." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

**Ryan Zinke voted to slash funding for public lands.**

Ryan Zinke, on July 8, 2015, voted for an amendment that would have implemented one percent across-the-board spending cuts to the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which "would have forced 'across the board cuts on
funding for public lands." [Roll Call Vote 407, Clerk.house.gov, 07/08/15; H. Amdt. 589, Congress.gov, 114th Congress; Pat Bellinghausen, "Gazette opinion: Montana loses if conservation fund sunsets," Billings Gazette, 06/19/15]

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, said he is "concerned about the federal government's role in the conservation process." He thinks the Bureau of Land Management's plan for sage grouse management undermines "the authority of sovereign states to manage [their] own land" and withdraws too much "land that has the potential for natural resource development."

Ryan Zinke opposed the Bureau of Land Management's plan for Sage Grouse management, saying in a 2015 press release, "once again the Obama Administration is undermining the authority of sovereign states to manage our own land, resources, and wildlife with one of their signature 'Washington knows best' plans." Zinke said he supports "a state-based plan that gives local stakeholders a seat at the table." [Press Release, Ryan Zinke accessed via archive.org 05/28/15]

He believes that "the listing of the sage grouse as an endangered species is not warranted, and neither is another federal land grab." Zinke added that he was "concerned about the federal government's role in the conservation process, specifically the withdrawal of ten million acres of land that has the potential for natural resource development. This multi-million acre land grab is aimed at shutting down Montana's energy economy. I firmly believe state-driven solutions are the best approach to create a middle ground to protect the species while ensuring energy development opportunities continue," he said. [Press Release, Ryan Zinke accessed via archive.org, 05/28/15]

Ryan Zinke, in January 2017, said that management plans for the sage grouse should be deferred to local plans.

Zinke says that "everybody loves the sage grouse," but management plans should be deferred local plans because "those living on the ground are in a better position and we should be an advocate and a partner in this rather than heavy handed and just dictate terms." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

In November 2015, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission wrote to Ryan Zinke and asked him to oppose H.R. 974, the Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act. This legislation would allow "the use of hand propelled vessels, such as canoes and kayaks, in sections of streams and rivers that flow through Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park." The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission was concerned that the fiscal impact of the legislation would add to the "extreme financial pressure" the National Park Service faces and would also "adversely impact the last sanctuary of Yellowstone Cutthroat in the world." Zinke responded to their letter saying that he supported H.R. 974 because "we must consider long term approaches to improve the management, accessibility, and livelihood of our parks."
On November 12, 2015, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission wrote a letter urging Zinke to oppose H.R. 974, the Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act, legislation that would allow "for the use of hand propelled vessels, such as canoes and kayaks, in sections of streams and rivers that flow through Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park." The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission was "very concerned this bill would lift existing protections and policies on hand-propelled vessels in most of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks – where existing management practices balance recreation and conservation." The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission was concerned that the legislation, by profoundly changing "the management of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park's waterways" and requiring the National Park Service to "develop new regulations," would add to the "extreme financial Pressure" the National Park Service is currently facing. The agency was also concerned that the legislation would "adversely impact the last sanctuary of Yellowstone Cutthroat in the world."

On December 01, 2015, Zinke wrote a response to the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission. In his letter, Zinke said that he supported H.R. 974 because he believes "recreation and conservation efforts can and should go hand in hand" and "as we look to improve opportunities on our national lands, we must consider long term approaches to improve the management, accessibility, and livelihood of our parks." [Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Public Records Response, 11/12/15, Pages 10-11; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Public Records Response, 12/01/15, Page 9]

In his confirmation testimony, Ryan Zinke said of the Stream Protection Rule, "we can do better." Zinke said a stream should, by definition, contain water and have interconnectivity. He said that the stream buffer rule was "problematic" because there was "no collaboration."

On the Stream Protection Rule, Zinke says "we can do better." Zinke said a stream should, by definition, contain water and have interconnectivity. [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said the stream buffer rule is "problematic" because there was "no collaboration." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

In April 2016, Ryan Zinke, along with other members of Congress, sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency expressing "extreme concern" that the EPA funded "propaganda, advocacy, and lobbying efforts" through a website called "whatsupstream.com." The website encouraged visitors to "take action" by encouraging Washington state legislators to support "stronger laws" protecting the health of water resources.

Ryan Zinke, in April 2016, co-signed a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency expressing "extreme concern" that the EPA funded a "website and campaign" called "whatsupstream.com." The authors of the letter claimed that the EPA was "funding propaganda, advocacy, and lobbying efforts" because the EPA funded a website that "ha[d] a button at the top of its site directing visitors to 'take action'" by encouraging Washington State
legislators to support "'stronger laws protecting the health of our water resources in Washington'" and a specific policy for "'100-foot natural buffers between agriculture lands and streams.'" [Dan Newhouse et. al. to Gina McCarthy, 04/20/16]

Ryan Zinke, in a 2016 letter, said he supported the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's "efforts to acquire the 5,350 acre Dome Mountain Ranch in Park County, Montana" because the acquisition would help "wildlife range continuity" and because "the economic benefits of protecting the land under the state of Montana's management are enormous."

On November 10, 2016, Zinke wrote a letter to David Allen, President and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, saying that he supported the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's "efforts to acquire the 5,350 acre Dome Mountain Ranch in Park County, Montana." The land that would be acquired would later be "conveyed to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and join the existing Dome Mountain Wildlife Management Area." Zinke supported this effort because it helped "wildlife range continuity" and because "the economic benefits of protecting the land under the state of Montana's management are enormous." [Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Public Records Response, 11/10/16, Page 44]

Ryan Zinke opposed an EPA Superfund listing for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site, where there was "environmental contamination" near the Flathead River, which is "a fishery that includes the federally designated threatened bull trout and the federally sensitive west slope cutthroat trout." Tests of the area detected contaminants like cyanide, fluoride, and metals, such as arsenic, chromium, lead, and selenium." Zinke said he was against a Superfund listing "since day one" and preferred "'a plan founded on private enterprise.'"

In 2014 "tests turned up contaminates in the water on and near the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site" near the Flathead River. The tests detected contaminants like cyanide, fluoride, and metals, such as arsenic, chromium, lead, and selenium." The Flathead River is "a fishery that includes the federally designated threatened bull trout and the federally sensitive west slope cutthroat trout." [Paige Sedgewick, "Contaminates found on Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. property," NBC Montana, 04/16/14; Justin Franz, "EPA, CFAC Finalize Agreement to Study Aluminum Plant Contamination," Flathead Beacon, 11/30/15]

In 2015, Governor Steve Bullock called for EPA "to list the former Columbia Falls Aluminum Company [CFAC] plant on the Superfund National Priority List." The "plant was in operation from 1955 until it closed in 2009." Bullock said he was "'concerned that if this issue remains unaddressed, the contamination from the site is serious enough to pose long-term risks to the community and to Montana's environment, including the Flathead River.'" [Press Release, Steve Bullock, 02/18/15]

Zinke was "vocal in his opposition to the Superfund listing." He said, "'given EPA's track record of not being timely and efficient, I would prefer that we agree upon a plan founded on private enterprise to get it done quicker.'" He continued, "'I think they need to sign a contract, that this is the process, and that contract should be between Glencore and the state of Montana or
another public entity." [Sam Wilson, "Superfund Listing Proposed for Aluminum Plant," Daily Inter Lake, 03/24/15]

Zinke also posted on Facebook, "as a Flathead native and resident I have been against a superfund listing since day one, advocating instead for a locally-driven solution to clean up the site. I'm glad to see the EPA and CFAC finalize an agreement which will hold Glencore accountable and responsible. While superfund sites often get stuck in bureaucratic purgatory and fail to produce results, I'm optimistic this local solution will revitalize the area." [Facebook Post by Ryan Zinke (now deleted)]

In 2016, the EPA announced that "it was adding the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company property to the Superfund program's National Priorities List, designating it for critical cleanup among the nation's most contaminated sites." [Dillon Tablish, "Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Property Declared a Superfund Site," Flathead Beacon, 09/07/16]

Ryan Zinke said in a letter to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality that he opposed the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site being placed on the Superfund National Priority List because "being listed will significantly delay...economic development."

Ryan Zinke said in a letter sent in 2015 to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality that he opposed the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site being placed on the Superfund National Priority List because "being listed will significantly delay much-needed economic development for the Columbia Falls area." [Ryan Zinke to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Natural Resources Public Records Response, 03/04/15]

Ryan Zinke believes that "fracking is safe." He said "he has seen no scientific evidence that fracking is environmentally dangerous" and that "it is bunk that fracking is environmentally unsound."

Ryan Zinke has publicly claimed that "FRACKING IS SAFE." [Tweet by Ryan Zinke, accessed 07/17/17]

He said, "it is bunk that fracking is environmentally unsound. There's no cases that I'm aware of, and I've looked at it deeply, where fracking has had any environmental damages." [Ryan Zinke, "THE Hagmann AND Hagmann Report 9 9 2013 0," YouTube, 09/10/13 (47:00)]

"Zinke said he is a geologist and that he has seen no scientific evidence that fracking is environmentally dangerous." [Troy Carter, "Zinke: Lewis wrong on energy," Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 06/18/14]

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, opposed the Department of the Interior's new fracking rules, which increase safety standards for hydraulic fracturing on public lands. The regulations include
"new standards for the construction of wells and the disposal of waste water in fracking conducted on federal land."

In 2015, the Obama Administration announced "new rules on hydraulic fracking, the contentious process behind the U.S. natural gas boom." The Department of Interior issued regulations that "include new standards for the construction of wells and the disposal of waste water in fracking conducted on federal land."

Zinke "issued a statement" expressing his opposition to the proposed rule. "This latest rule on hydraulic fracturing is just another example of government bureaucracy stifling Montana's ability to make tremendous economic strides on our federal lands," Zinke said. "States already have technical structures in place to effectively regulate the industry. Our nation has the incredible opportunity to use our vast resources to create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, yet this decision is yet another barrier for everyone, from the producers to local residents." ["Obama administration puts new rules on fracking," CNN accessed via archive.irg, 03/20/15]

Later, in 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that "sought to strike section 439 which prohibits use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule entitled 'Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands' as published in the Federal Register." [H. Amdt.576 to H.R. 2822, United States House of Representatives, 114th Congress]

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, said he thinks more gas can and should be extracted from Bureau of Land Management land. He said he wants "to speed up oil and gas drilling on lands managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service." In 2015 he signed a letter to the Department of the Interior complaining that oil and gas lease sales were not being approved fast enough.

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, in response to a question about which Montana industries are threatened by "excessive government involvement," said, "with BLM, the gas industry. There are a lot of gas wells out there we could potentially be drilling that we can't" because of BLM. [“Zinke, 1/30/14, Hometown Helena Part 2,” mtarawfootage via YouTube, 02/03/14]

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, said that because a "large portion" of oil and gas deposits are "located beneath" Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands we need to ensure the "federal government isn't blocking leases and access and make sure that permits are being addressed in a timely manner." ["Power Our Economy: A Plan to Develop Montana's Abundant Energy Resources," Zinke for Congress accessed via archive.org, 07/30/14]

He sought "to streamline permitting processes to speed up oil and gas drilling on lands managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. 'The opportunity for energy independence in the short term remains primarily with fossil fuels, primarily driven by the shale play,' he said, referring to the shale oil found in the Bakken."

Zinke, in 2015, signed a letter to Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior, "expressing serious concerns with the Bureau of Land Management's...repeated postponement of lease sales." The letter "raised concerns about the appearance of significant influence from special interest and environmental groups, which prompted the BLM to postpone oil and gas lease sales in Arkansas and Michigan until March 2016, and sales in Utah until February 2016." It also stated that the "postponed lease sales would be particularly beneficial to Arkansas, Michigan, Utah and the country because development of these resources help ensure the future of our country's energy security." [Press Release, House Natural Resources, 12/16/15]

**Ryan Zinke sponsored a bill to "make mining and drilling easier on Indian reservations."**

In 2015, Ryan Zinke sponsored a bill to "make mining and drilling easier on Indian reservations." [Tom Lutey, “Zinke a key lawmaker in removing U.S. crude export ban,” Billings Gazette, 10/07/15]

**Ryan Zinke voted in committee for the Native American Energy Act, which was legislation to "exempt tribal lands from any regulations on hydraulic fracturing" and allow "environmental assessments required by the National Environmental Policy Act" to be "avoided."**

Ryan Zinke, on September 10, 2015, voted in the House Natural Resources Committee for H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act, which was legislation to "streamline the process of licensing energy projects on tribal lands" by "shortening the time for federal approvals and limiting public comment on environmental impacts." The bill would "prohibit payment of attorney's fees in lawsuits challenging energy projects on tribal lands," and it "would exempt tribal lands from any regulations on hydraulic fracturing." Additionally, under the legislation "environmental assessments required by the National Environmental Policy Act could be avoided." [“H.R. 538,” House Natural Resources Committee Vote, 09/10/15; Charles McConnell, “House OKs bill giving tribes more control over mineral resources,” Arizona Daily Sun, 10/09/15; Rebecca Moss, “Tribal leaders, U.S. lawmakers discuss energy development, drawing protest,” Santa Fe New Mexican, 10/04/16]

In his confirmation testimony, Ryan Zinke promised to help refill the Trans-Alaska-Pipeline System and "unleash America's $50 trillion in untapped shale, oil, and natural gas reserves." He also said that "if we want to check Russia, then let's do it with liquid natural gas." In his written responses to questions asked by senators he said that "the current situation with regard to the Dakota Access Pipeline is very challenging and unfortunate."

Zinke promised to help refill Trans-Alaska-Pipeline System and "unleash America's $50 trillion in untapped shale, oil, and natural gas reserves." He also said "energy dominance" is a "strategic
economic and foreign policy goal of the United States." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Questionnaire, Ryan Zinke, 01/17/17]

Zinke said "if we want to check Russia, then let’s do it with liquid natural gas." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said "the current situation with regard to the Dakota Access Pipeline is very challenging and unfortunate. This country needs to build and operate infrastructure, and the permitting process for infrastructure needs to comply with all laws and regulations and be relatively predictable." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Questionnaire, Ryan Zinke, 01/17/17]

**Ryan Zinke supports the building of the Keystone XL Pipeline. He sat on the board for a company with a financial interest in the pipeline.**

Ryan Zinke criticized President Obama's decision to reject the Keystone XL Pipeline. Zinke, "an original cosponsor of legislation to build the Keystone XL Pipeline" said, "the President is 100 percent wrong on Keystone." [Press Release, Ryan Zinke accessed via archive.org, 11/06/15]

Zinke said the pipeline "would help with energy independence, which has been a long standing goal for this country. Our neighbors to the north are our closest allies, and have been. There is no environmental, by our state department's own report, there is no significant environmental risk to it." Zinke continued, "I think we have turned our backs, to a degree, on Canada, and I think it's a travesty." [Jon King, "Zinke, Daines Disappointes by Keystone XL 'Pause' Request, Blame Obama Administration," KGVO, 11/03/15]

Zinke said, "the building of the Keystone XL Pipeline represents not only tens of thousands of jobs for Montana, but increased economic development up and down the United States." ["Zinke responds to State of the Union Address," Hungry Horse News, 01/29/14]

Ryan Zinke served on the Board of Directors of Save the World Air, Inc. [STWA] from December 2012 through January 1, 2015. The company developed and commercialized "pipeline flow assurance technologies that improve the economics, safety, and efficiencies of crude oil extraction and transportation systems." In other words, it is a "developer of applied solutions for oil and fuel delivery systems in the multi-billion dollar oil pipeline and diesel engine markets." [Press Release, Save the World Air, 12/14/12; Save the World Air Inc. Form 10-K, Securities and Exchange Commission, 2014; Press Release, Save the World Air, 04/18/12]

Ryan Zinke voted for legislation that would allow the Interior Secretary "to negotiate rights of way for natural gas pipelines across National Park System lands and require the designation of at least 10 such corridors within two years." It would also "allow the Interior secretary to designate corridors without first completing the type of review required under the National Environmental Policy Act."
Ryan Zinke, on June 11, 2015, voted in committee for H.R. 2295, which was a bill to "amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Department of Interior to identify and designate 'National Energy Security Corridors.'" The legislation would allow the Interior Secretary "to negotiate rights of way for natural gas pipelines across National Park System lands and require the designation of at least 10 such corridors within two years." Currently, it "takes an act of Congress every time a pipeline needs to cross federally-owned land." This legislation would also "allow the Interior secretary to designate corridors without first completing the type of review required under the National Environmental Policy Act." The bill passed out of committee 21 to 15, with 15 Democrats voting against it. [“H.R. 2295,” House Natural Resources Committee Vote, 06/11/15, and Jasmin Melvin, “House panel moves pipeline rights-of-way bill ahead,” Platts Gas Daily, 06/12/15]

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, "warned against" increased regulations for offshore drilling.

Ryan Zinke "warned against" increased regulations for offshore drilling. He said, "'what we're going to do is create another layer of government...and yet another layer of expertise, more bodies, more personnel, and pretty soon you have bird-watchers watching bird-watchers.'" ["5 years later: Industry responds, regulators lag behind, If BP's Macondo well blowout and catastrophic oil spill five years ago didn't scare the oil and gas industry straight, the loss of 50 percent of its offshore workforce to retirement by 2018 certainly did," CBS 4 WWL, 04/21/15]

Ryan Zinke has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars from the oil and gas industry, and has defended those contributions, even name-dropping Haliburton and Oasis Petroleum as his "energy guys."

Ryan Zinke's congressional campaigns have accepted in $345,136 from the oil and gas industry. Some of the top donors to Zinke's congressional campaigns include Oasis Petroleum, Haliburton, and the Red Apple Group. [Based on Data from the Center for Responsive Politics]

Ryan Zinke defended taking money from the "energy guys and the coal guys," name-dropping his big oil contributors like Haliburton and Oasis Petroleum. ["Ryan Zinke: Errand Boy for Big Oil," YouTube, 06/15/14]

Ryan Zinke supported "increased coal production" and complained that the Obama administration was "fighting a more aggressive war against American coal than they are against ISIS."

In response to the 2008 Political Courage Test administered by Project Vote Smart, Ryan Zinke wrote, "I support increased coal production for electrical generation and believe it can and should be done with adequate environmental safeguards." [Ryan Zinke's Issue Positions (Political Courage Test), Votesmart, accessed 12/04/18]
Ryan Zinke, in 2015, wrote, the Obama administration is "fighting a more aggressive war against American coal than they are against ISIS." [Ryan Zinke, "Montana coal workers deserve a fighting chance," Great Falls Tribune, 07/10/15]

In his written responses to questions asked by senators during the confirmation process, Ryan Zinke said the war on coal was "real." In his confirmation hearing, Zinke said that the Obama administration's temporary moratorium on new coal leasing on public lands was "a view from Washington, not a view from the states." Zinke also said he is "a strong proponent" of research and development for horizontal drilling, fracking, and coal.

Zinke claimed that the war on coal was "real." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said he had not reviewed the Obama Administration's temporary moratorium on new coal leasing on public lands while it assessed whether taxpayers were receiving a fair return for publicly-owned resources. [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Questionnaire, Ryan Zinke, 01/17/17]

Zinke said, "The moratorium I think was an example of [inaudible] one-size-fits-all. It was a view from Washington, not a view from the states. Particularly, if you're a state such as Wyoming, you know, parts of Montana, West Virginia that -- where coal is important." Zinke implied that, like the president, he wants to "end" the war on coal and believes that "all of the above is the correct policy." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said he is "a strong proponent" of research and development for horizontal drilling, fracking, and coal. [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

**Ryan Zinke was a cosponsor and voted in committee for legislation to block the Office of Surface Mining [OSM] in the Department of the Interior from publishing new rules on mountaintop removal mining until OSM "conducts an 'industry impact' study," even if the new rules "are necessary to reduce lung cancer, heart or kidney disease or birth defects in mining communities."**

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, was a cosponsor and voted in committee for H.R. 1644, which was legislation to "postpone" the Obama administration's "final rules on mountaintop removal mining — a process in which the summits of mountains are blown apart, exposing the coal underneath," by blocking "Interior's Office of Surface Mining from implementing any new rule until it conducts an 'industry impact' study." Under this legislation, OSM would "also have to release to the public all data used to write the rule, and would not be able to use the Clean Water Act to justify the regulation."
The rule that the legislation aimed to block would "update standards for buffer zones around streams where mining activities and waste are prohibited." Mountaintop removal "is harmful to streams because the rock and soil that's created through the removal process — which often contains toxic heavy metals — is dumped into streams and valleys, burying them and killing aquatic life."

Ryan Zinke also voted in committee against the Lowenthal amendment to H.R. 1644, which was an amendment to void H.R. 1644 "if the Interior secretary finds that new regulations relating to stream buffer zones or stream protection are necessary to reduce lung cancer, heart or kidney disease or birth defects in mining communities." [John Paul Jones, “Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act’ (H.R. 2824),” House Committee on Natural Resources, 08/02/13; “H.R. 1644,” House Natural Resources Committee Vote, 09/10/15; H.R. 1644, United States House of Representatives, 114th Congress; Alex Guillen, “Interior proposes boosting stream protections from coal mining,” Politico, 07/16/15; Devin Henry, “GOP bill blocking Obama coal rule set to hit House floor,” The Hill, 01/06/16; “Cloud Peak Energy Resources 2015 Third Quarter Report,” United States Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, accessed 07/09/17]

Cloud Peak Energy lobbied for the abovementioned bill to block OSM from publishing new rules on mountaintop removal mining until OSM "conducts an 'industry impact' study."

H.R. 1644 was legislation to "postpone" the Obama administration's "final rules on mountaintop removal mining — a process in which the summits of mountains are blown apart, exposing the coal underneath," by blocking "Interior's Office of Surface Mining from implementing any new rule until it conducts an 'industry impact' study." Cloud Peak Energy lobbied for this bill. [Alex Guillen, “Interior proposes boosting stream protections from coal mining,” Politico, 07/16/15; “Cloud Peak Energy Resources 2015 Third Quarter Report,” United States Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, accessed 07/09/17]

Zinke campaign contributor Alpha Natural Resources also opposed new OSM rules on mountaintop removal mining.

New OSM rules on mountaintop removal mining are "likely to have the greatest impact on Appalachia mines" where companies such as Alpha Natural Resources "operate extensively." [Taylor Kuykendall, "West Virginia reports scant progress on cooperation in stream rule rewrite," SNL Daily Coal Report, 05/01/15]

In 2013, John Paul Jones, Vice President of Alpha Natural Resources, testified before the House Natural Resources Committee. He said during his testimony that OSM’s proposal to update standards for buffer zones around streams "was unnecessary, unjustified, and dangerous, and certainly does not meet any cost-benefit standard." [John Paul Jones, “Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act’ (H.R. 2824),” House Committee on Natural Resources, 08/02/13]
Ryan Zinke, in 2015, accepted $2,000 from the Alpha Natural Resources PAC. [Based on Data from CQ Political MoneyLine]

**Ryan Zinke, in 2015, voted to "prohibit any increase in the royalty rates paid for oil and gas," and he voted against raising "fees on oil companies" to fund pipeline safety.**

Ryan Zinke, on July 8, 2015, voted for an "amendment from Rep. Steve Pearce" to "prohibit any increase in the royalty rates paid for oil and gas." [Roll Call Vote 408, United States House of Representatives, 2015; Heather Taylor-Miesle, "Friends of Polluters Rack Up More Dirty Votes," Huffington Post, 08/11/15]

In the previous month he voted against the Capps amendment to H.R. 2577. This was an amendment to raise "fees on oil companies to increase funding for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, which regulates oil pipelines," to provide funding to finalize and implement pipeline safety and spill mitigation rules. [Roll Call Vote 305, House of Representatives, 2015; Seann McMinn, "With clock ticking on Capps’s time in Washington, she’s looking for some ‘progress’," Scripps Howard Foundation Wire, 06/16/15]

**Ryan Zinke introduced an amendment that would have blocked the Obama administration from implementing a rule to close a loophole that allows coal companies to avoid royalty payments, thereby "shortchanging Western states on revenue that could be used for schools, roads, and other priorities."**

An "amendment from Representative Ryan Zinke [R-MT], offered [in 2015] on a spending bill... would block the Obama Administration from implementing a forthcoming rule that would close a loophole in how royalties are collected from coal mined on federal lands." Coal companies were "using a regulatory loophole to sell coal to their own subsidiary companies at intentionally depressed prices to avoid royalty payments. These so-called 'captive transactions', or inside deals between coal companies and their own subsidiaries, are shortchanging Western states on revenue that could be used for schools, roads, and other priorities." [Nicole Gentile, “Congressman Tries To Quietly Preserve Coal Loophole,” Think Progress, 06/30/15]

"If the loophole were to be closed, taxpayers in states like Montana would see millions of additional income."

"The amendment was not voted upon." [Heather Taylor-Miesle, "Friends of Polluters Rack Up More Dirty Votes," Huffington Post, 08/11/15]

**Ryan Zinke sponsored the amendment to prevent the Department of the Interior from collecting more in royalties from coal companies, out of concern that the proposal to increase funding through additional coal royalties "will discourage future coal mining." A Billings Gazette editorial characterized Zinke as working "to keep a loophole open that will rob Montanans [and all citizens] of money that's rightfully theirs," wryly adding that it looked**
"like coal is getting a good return on its Zinke investment." Ryan Zinke accepted more than $31,000 in campaign contributions from the coal industry.

Ryan Zinke, as a member of Congress, accepted at least $31,400 from the coal industry, including:

- $1,000 from the Alpha Natural Resources PAC on February 6, 2015;
- $1,000 from the Alpha Natural Resources PAC on August 21, 2015;
- $1,000 from the Arch Coal PAC on March 2, 2015;
- $1,000 from the Arch Coal PAC on September 16, 2015;
- $2,000 from the Arch Coal PAC on September 24, 2015;
- $1,000 from the Arch Coal PAC on April 27, 2016;
- $1,000 from the Arch Coal PAC on September 13, 2016;
- $1,000 from the Arch Coal PAC on September 29, 2016;
- $2,000 from the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC on February 10, 2015;
- $2,500 from the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC on March 16, 2015;
- $5,000 from the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC on August 10, 2015;
- $1,000 from the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC on September 18, 2015;
- $2,000 from the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC on March 30, 2016;
- $-2,500 from the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC on June 6, 2016;
- $1,000 from the Hecla Mining PAC on August 13, 2015;
- $1,000 from the Hecla Mining PAC on August 4, 2016;
- $8,000 from the National Mining Association PAC;
- $1,000 from the Peabody Energy PAC on December 8, 2015; and
- $1,000 from the Peabody Energy PAC on April 25, 2016. [Based on Data from CQ Political MoneyLine]

Ryan Zinke "received nearly $10,000 total in campaign contributions [just] from the Alpha Natural Resources PAC, the Arch PAC, and from the Peabody Energy Corporation PAC since 2013." Those companies are "among the major coal producers in the Powder River Basin." ["Rep. Zinke backs coal company giveaway," Western Values Project, 06/26/15]

Zinke attempted "to block federal government plans to increase royalties that companies pay for coal, oil and gas taken from public lands." Citing "concerns about the coal economy and prosperity on Montana's Crow Indian Reservation," Zinke, on June 25, 2015, introduced an amendment that would block "funding to the U.S. Department of Interior," which had "been working on a possible increase in royalties collected," and "prohibit DOI from continuing to spend money on its royalty work." Zinke's "concern with DOI's proposal is that it will discourage future coal mining." [Tom Lutey, "Zinke attempts to block plans to increase royalties on public coal," Billings Gazette, 07/08/15; H.Amdt601 to H.R.2822, Congress.gov, 114th Congress; Amendments, Congressional Record, 06/25/15]
An editorial in the *Billings Gazette* said that Zinke "tried to keep a loophole open that will rob Montanans [and all citizens] of money that's rightfully theirs." The editorial added, "given the quiet nature of the budget rider, the lack of comment and the strong support Zinke has received from the well-heeled energy community, it looks like coal is getting a good return on its Zinke investment." [Editorial Board, "Gazette opinion: Zinke pushes quietly to take money away from taxpayers," *Billings Gazette*, 07/06/15]

Cloud Peak Energy appears to be the biggest beneficiary of the abovementioned loophole to prevent the Department of the Interior from collecting royalties from coal companies. In the five months before this amendment was introduced the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC contributed $4,500 to Ryan Zinke's campaign fund, and in the eight months after he introduced it the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC contributed $8,000 to Ryan Zinke's campaign fund.

Cloud Peak Energy is "exploiting" the loophole that Zinke tried to keep open. It "appears to be the biggest benefactor of this loophole and is its most staunch defender." The company "created a network of at least 31 domestic subsidiaries through which it markets and sells its coal." [Matt Le and Nidhi Thakar, "Massive Coal Company Fights to Preserve Loopholes, Ability to Rip Off Taxpayers," *ThinkProgress*, 08/11/15]

After Ryan Zinke introduced the amendment, Rick Curtsinger, a spokesman for Cloud Peak Energy, said that "his company support[ed] Zinke's moves to limit the impact of the rule" and that the "draft...rule is seriously flawed." Cloud Peak Energy "welcome[d] Zinke's efforts 'to protect the thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues that coal delivers to Montana and other states as well as the federal government.'" ["Congressman seeks to blunt coal royalty rule through spending bill," *SNL Daily Coal Report*, 07/02/15]

In the five months before this amendment was introduced the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC contributed $4,500 to Ryan Zinke's campaign fund, and in the eight months after he introduced it the Cloud Peak Energy Resources PAC contributed $8,000 to Ryan Zinke's campaign fund. [Based on Data from CQ Political MoneyLine]

**Ryan Zinke used a study funded by Cloud Peak Energy to try to stop the rule to close the loophole that allows coal companies to avoid royalty payments.**

Representatives Ryan Zinke and Cynthia Lummis, on September 28, 2015, wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking that the Interior Department consider a peer review "completed by Energy Ventures Analysis, Inc. titled, Coal Sales Prices used/or Valuation and Payment of Federal Royalties, A Peer Review of Previous Studies by Headwaters Economics" when considering the proposed "Consolidated Federal Oil and Gas and Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Reform" rule, which had to do with "reconsidering whether Americans are receiving a 'fair return' on sales of coal, oil and natural gas taken from public lands." [Letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, 09/28/15; Tom Lutey, "Carbon copies: Elected officials pass coal industry letter off as their own," *Billings Gazette*, 04/15/15]
This was a rule to "close a loophole in how royalties are collected from coal mined on federal lands." Coal companies were "using a regulatory loophole to sell coal to their own subsidiary companies at intentionally depressed prices to avoid royalty payments." [Nicole Gentile, “Congressman Tries To Quietly Preserve Coal Loophole,” Think Progress, 06/30/15]

In a November 30, 2015, letter to the Department of the Interior, Ryan Zinke said that "this rule seems to have been based on biased studies produced by Headwaters Economics." He described Energy Ventures Analysis [EVA] as a "respected energy economics consulting firm." [Letter to the Department of the Interior, 11/30/15]

The report by EVA was completed "at the request of Cloud Peak Energy." It raised concerns "that the Headwaters Economic studies contain significant errors, utilize flawed data, and make biased assumptions." [Letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, 09/28/15]

According to Zinke’s letter dated November 30, 2015, EVA’s peer review of Headwaters Economics data “thoroughly discredits the flawed data manipulated by Headwaters to arrive at predetermined and false conclusions. Put simply, claims of systematic royalty evasion or underpayment are utterly false.” He concluded, "there is no economic justification for increasing royalty fees or leasing costs at this time." [Letter to the Department of the Interior, 11/30/15]

Alpha Natural Resources and Peabody Energy, which have contributed thousands of dollars to Ryan Zinke’s campaign committee, also appear to benefit from this loophole.

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, accepted $2,000 from the Alpha Natural Resources PAC and $2,000 from the Peabody Energy PAC in the 2015-16 election cycle. [Based on Data from CQ Political MoneyLine]

Alpha Natural Resources "built a network of 184 domestic and foreign subsidiaries" and Peabody Energy "built a network of 141 domestic subsidiaries and 101 foreign subsidiaries." [Matt Lee-Ashley and Nidhi Thakar, "Opinion: King Coal is Merrily Fiddling the Taxpayer," Newsweek, 01/12/15]

BNSF, which is "a large player in transporting coal from the Powder River Basin," has given Ryan Zinke a total of $19,160 in political contributions, and it has given $5,000 to SEAL PAC. BNSF was a supporter of, and would have benefited from, the Gateway Pacific Terminal [GPT], which was a proposed export facility in Washington that "was supposed to be the largest coal exporting facility on the West Coast." Had the GPT been built, BNSF would have served the GPT. BNSF lobbied the federal government on "the benefits" of the GPT, and Ryan Zinke was "a vocal proponent" of it. Zinke called the project "'a must-build project'" and said he would "'not stand idly by as the Gateway Pacific Terminal becomes the next Keystone XL Pipeline.'" Ryan Zinke called the environmental plan for the terminal "flawless," and in Congress he co-sponsored "a controversial amendment" that would "guarantee the
completion of [the] National Environmental Policy Act review" for the GPT. Ryan Zinke called the GPT "'a must-build project,'" but the permit for the project was denied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], which said that "the project would infringe on" tribal fishing rights. Zinke said that the USACE "'caved into the interest of the Lummis Tribe.'"

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad [BNSF] is "'a large player in transporting coal from the Powder River Basin." [Brittany Patterson, "Zinke donors include oil and gas firms using public land," E&E News, 01/13/17]

BNSF gave Ryan Zinke $160 in 2008 when he ran for Montana State Senate.

BNSF has given to Ryan Zinke's congressional campaigns. They gave Zinke $5000 in 2014, $9000 in 2015, and $5000 in 2016. [Search for Donations from BNSF to Ryan Zinke, National Institute of Money in State Politics, accessed 02/07/18]

In 2016, BNSF donated $5000 to the Supporting Electing American Leaders [SEAL] PAC, which was originally created by Ryan Zinke. [BNSF Railway Company RailPac Records, Federal Election Commission, accessed 02/07/18; Molly Redden, "GOP Congressional Candidate Using Campaign Money Scheme Pioneered by...Stephen Colbert," Mother Jones, 11/01/16]

The Gateway Pacific Terminal [GPT] was a proposed $665 million export facility that would have been located just North of Bellingham, Washington, and "was supposed to be the largest coal exporting facility on the West Coast, allowing the export of coal mined in the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming." [Bob Watters and Don Brunell, "GATEWAY PACIFIC TERMINAL Pro: Project's economic benefits, potential export growth outweigh congestion concerns," Spokesman Review, 11/23/14; Aseem Prakash, Maggie Allen, and Nives Dolsak, "The big fight over the Dakota Access Pipeline, explained," Washington Post, 09/20/16]

BNSF supported the Gateway Pacific Terminal, and in 2012 published advice on their website to tell the public "Facts about the Gateway Pacific Terminal and how you can help this important project." Had the Gateway Pacific Terminal been built, BNSF would have served GPT. ["Facts about the Gateway Pacific Terminal and how you can help this important project," BNSF accessed via google cache, 10/31/12]

SSA Marine, the developer of the Pacific Gateway Terminal, called BNSF "a good partner" on the Gateway Pacific Terminal project. BNSF played "an important supporting role" in the Gateway Pacific Terminal. BNSF Railway would have built "the spur line that will service the terminal." BNSF would have transported "the coal 1,000 miles from Wyoming to Cherry Point. A fully-operating terminal would generate 18 coal trans a day—nine full, nine empty and each a mile and a half long. Those 18 trains [would have been] a big jump from the current number [about four a day] serving Canadian coal terminals." [Floyd McKay, "Coal Train: The people and process behind Bellingham's coal port decision," Crosscut, 01/22/13; Bob Watters and Don Brunell, "GATEWAY PACIFIC TERMINAL Pro: Project's economic benefits, potential export growth outweigh congestion concerns," Spokesman Review, 11/23/14]
BNSF also "joined forces" with SSA Marine, the developer of the Pacific Gateway Terminal, and the coal industry in 2012 to form an "'astroturf'" group that rolled out an "advertising and public relations effort that" spent $866,000 in Oregon and Washington on TV spots "lauding the benefits of building coal export terminals." ["EXCLUSIVE: Coal Export Lobby Spends Big on Ads Promoting Shipping Taxpayer-Owned Coal Abroad," *ThinkProgress*, 10/31/12; Floyd McKay, "Coal Train: The people and process behind Bellingham's coal port decision," *Crosscut*, 01/22/13]

In 2015, when Ryan Zinke was a Member of Congress, BNSF lobbied the federal government on "Gateway Pacific Terminal Project, job and trade benefits of the project." In 2016, BNSF continued to lobby the federal government on "Gateway Pacific Terminal Project, job and trade benefits of the project, and USACE permit denial [no specific bill]." [Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway 2015 Second Quarter Report, United States Senate Disclosure Database, accessed 02/07/18; Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway 2016 Second Quarter Report, United States Senate Disclosure Database, accessed 02/07/18]

Ryan Zinke was "a vocal proponent of the ill-fated Gateway Pacific Terminal project in Whatcom County," WA. [Peter Wagner, "*Zinke, a proponent of GPT terminal, tapped for interior secretary*," KGMI News accessed via archive.org, 12/15/16]

In April 2015, shortly after he was elected to Congress, Ryan Zinke wrote to Washington Governor Jay Inslee asking Inslee to approve the project, saying it would "create thousands of jobs" in Washington state. ["*Montana congressman urges Inslee to support GPT project*," KGMI News accessed via archive.org, 04/07/15]

Zinke said "'the Gateway Pacific Terminal is a must-build project. I will not stand idly by as the Gateway Pacific Terminal becomes the next Keystone XL Pipeline.'" [Press Release, *Senator Steve Daines*, 07/29/15]

The permit for the project was denied by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers [USACE], which said that "the project would infringe on the Lummi Nation’s rights to particular kinds of fishing in the waters off Cherry Point." [Peter Wagner, "*Zinke, a proponent of GPT terminal, tapped for interior secretary*," KGMI News accessed via archive.org, 12/15/16]

In August 2015 Ryan Zinke "shrugged off the concerns of environmentalists" when he visited the Gateway Pacific Terminal. After touring the terminal he said the environmental plan for it was "flawless." [Ralph Schwartz, "*Montana officials praise Cherry Point coal port plan*," *Bellingham Herald*, 08/19/15]

In December 2015 Zinke co-sponsored "a controversial amendment" that would "guarantee the completion of [the] National Environmental Policy Act review" for the Gateway Pacific Terminal. The amendment was "controversial" because the Lummi Nation said that the Gateway Pacific Terminal project "would violate treaty-protected fishing rights and, therefore, the Army Corps
of Engineers [had] no business reviewing permit applications." Lummi Indian Business Council Chairman Tim Ballew II said that the terminal "would destroy the tribe's ancestral lands and damage waterways for ancient fishing traditions" and that Zinke's amendment "seem[ed] to be more of a stealth approach to advance the project, to stall the corps' decision and undermine [Lummi Nation's] treaty right requests." [Grace Toohey, “Northwest tribes fear corporate interests trump treaty rights,” McClatchy, 12/03/15]

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], eventually denied the permit for the project, because "the project would infringe on" tribal fishing rights. In May 2016, the permit for the project was denied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], which said that "the project would infringe on the Lummi Nation's rights to particular kinds of fishing in the waters off Cherry Point." [Peter Wagner, "Zinke, a proponent of GPT terminal, tapped for interior secretary," KGMI News accessed via archive.org, 12/15/16; "Gateway Pacific Terminal Project denied," KGMI News accessed via archive.org, 05/11/16]

The Gateway Pacific Terminal "was supposed to be the largest coal exporting facility on the West Coast, allowing the export of coal mined in the Power River Basin in Montana and Wyoming." [Nives Dolšak, Aseem Prakash and Maggie Allen, “The big fight over the Dakota Access Pipeline, explained,” Washington Post, 09/20/16]

Zinke said the USACE "certainly caved into the interest of the Lummis Tribe." [Tom Lutey, “Montana congressmen rush to keep coal port review on track,” Billings Gazette, 07/29/15]

Peabody Energy was "a major supporter and potential customer of the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal." In 2011, Peabody Energy "announced an agreement with SSA Marine...to export up to 24 million metric tons of Powder River Basin coal per year through the planned GPT coal terminal." Peabody "never actually committed to shipping the 24 million metric tons per year," but "Peabody and SSA Marine had a memorandum of understanding anticipating that a definitive agreement would be developed later." [Samantha Wohlfeil, “Potential Cherry Point coal terminal customer files for bankruptcy,” Bellingham Herald, 04/13/16]

As Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke has reopened the loophole.

In August 2017 Ryan Zinke “arrived at a final decision” and “the Interior Department officially repealed an Obama administration rule that in effect required oil, gas and coal extractors to pay more in royalties to the federal government and states.” [Dino Grandoni, “The Energy 202: Interior Department could cost taxpayers at least $60 million by rolling back Obama rule,” Washington Post, 08/09/17]

Ryan Zinke introduced a bill to change a coal tax credit in a way that benefits Cloud Peak Energy. Cloud Peak Energy lobbied Congress to pass this bill.

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, introduced H.R. 1522, which was a bill "to make the Indian Coal Production Tax Credit [ICPTC] permanent." [Press Release, Ryan Zinke accessed via archive.org, 03/16/15]
The tax break when this bill was introduced applied "only to mines put into service before 2009," but Zinke's bill included "language to lift the date restriction so that Cloud Peak's proposed Big Metal Mine," which is on the Crow Indian Reservation, would qualify for the tax break. [Matthew Brown, “Montana delegation seeks to make coal tax break permanent,” Associated Press, 03/12/15]


Ryan Zinke, in 2016, introduced a bill to "overturn a temporary federal ban on coal leases." Cloud Peak Energy "strongly" supported this bill.

Ryan Zinke, in 2016, introduced H.R. 5259, which was a bill to "overturn a temporary federal ban on coal leases" and re-establish "a royalty policy committee from which state, tribal and energy interests consult the department." Earlier in 2016 new leasing was suspended by the Department of the Interior so the department could "establish a more equitable royalty rate."

When Zinke introduced H.R. 5259 Cloud Peak Energy President and CEO Colin Marshall said that Cloud Peak Energy "'strongly support[ed]' the goal of Zinke's legislation." Marshall said that the company believed it was "critical for transparency in the setting of royalty and leasing policies for minerals on federal lands that the Royalty Policy Committee, which the Secretary of Interior effectively dismissed before commencing changes to such policies, be reestablished." [Press Release, Ryan Zinke accessed via archive.org, 05/17/16; Tom Lutey, “Zinke pushes to end coal lease suspension, empower communities,” Montana Standard, 06/14/16]

Cloud Peak Energy worked closely with the author of a letter signed by Ryan Zinke in opposition to a rule that Cloud Peak Energy said was part of the Obama administration's "'onslaught on the coal industry.'"

Ryan Zinke and 14 other members of Congress, on February 10, 2015, sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking that the Interior Department "provide a 60-day extension of the comment period" for the proposed "Consolidated Federal Oil and Gas and Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Reform" rule, which had to with "reconsidering whether Americans are receiving a 'fair return' on sales of coal, oil and natural gas taken from public lands."

A spokesman for Senator Steve Daines, whose office circulated the letter, said that Daines' office "'worked closely'" with Cloud Peak Energy when "'developing the language'" of the letter.

Cloud Peak Energy Communications Director Rick Curtsinger said that the "'proposed rule change appear[ed] to be a continuation of the Administration's onslaught on the coal industry and threaten[ed] the reliable and affordable energy it provides.'" [Tom Lutey, “Carbon copies: Elected officials pass coal industry letter off as their own,” Billings Gazette, 07/15/15; Steve Daines et. al to Sally Jewell, 02/10/15]
Ryan Zinke voted in the Montana legislature to block a bill that would have increased Montana's renewable energy portfolio, and he mocked alternative energy sources in 2013, saying that expecting to achieve energy independence with wind or solar power "is tantamount to pixie dust and hope." He said, "fossil fuels, like it or not, are gonna be a big, big part of the economy."

In 2013, on the Voices of Montana radio, Zinke said, "I'm a huge advocate of energy independence and it has to be fossil fuels, guys. I mean...to think you're going to get out of energy independence on wind power or solar is tantamount to pixie dust and hope. So fossil fuels, like it or not, are gonna be a big, big part of the economy." ["Zinke, Voices of Montana, Radio 12 11 13," mtalrawfootage via YouTube, 01/29/14]

On February 21, 2011, Ryan Zinke voted against bringing Senate Bill 332 to increase Montana's renewable energy portfolio to the Committee as a Whole. ["Senate Bill No. 332, Montana Senate, 62nd Legislature; Vote Tabulation for SB 332, Montana Senate, 02/21/11]

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, opposed boosting "biofuels and wind power production with targeted tax credits."

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, said he disagrees with John Lewis' plan to boost biofuels and wind power production with targeted tax credits. 'Subsidies are the wrong direction,' said Zinke." [Troy Carter, "Zinke: Lewis wrong on energy," Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 06/18/14]

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, said, "'I believe Montana knows best how to manage our power and our resources, much better than unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C do," including bureaucrats at the Bureau of Land Management.

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, said, "'I believe Montana knows best how to manage our power and our resources, much better than unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C do. In Montana, we value our beautiful lands and clean air and water, and we all work together to conserve our resources. Our state has already reduced our emissions rates without the federal government getting involved. The EPA's supposed 'Clean Power Plan' will kill good-paying union jobs and drive up costs for Montana families and small businesses." [Press Release, Ryan Zinke accessed via Votesmart, 08/03/15]

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, also said, "it's not only the EPA. It's the BLM. It's sage grouse. It's across the board. There's this mantra that Washington, DC, knows best. They know best how to manage our wildlife. They know best how to manage our water, and I disagree. I strongly disagree. These are rules being made by bureaucrats in DC who don't know where Montana is on the map, and if you don't know the difference between Missoula and Butte and Bozeman, maybe you're not the right person to be making these rules that affect Butte, Bozeman, and Missoula. It's time to push back, and we can." ["Talk Back with Congressman Ryan Zinke and UM Law Professor Jeff Renz," Newstalk KGVO, 05/28/15, (1:00)]
Ryan Zinke thinks environmental regulatory decisions should be made locally.

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, said, "I strongly disagree with giving the EPA more power. I think decisions are best made by those that live there, and Montanans do a pretty good job, I think an excellent job, with their water." ["Talk Back with Congressman Ryan Zinke and UM Law Professor Jeff Renz," Newstalk KGVO, 05/28/15, (4:00)]

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, proposed that "federal land-management decisions must be approved by local government officials."

In 2014, as part of his public-lands plan, Ryan Zinke proposed that "federal land-management decisions must be approved by local government officials." [Lisa Baumann, "Zinke Wants Locals to Approve Feds' Land Plans," Associated Press, 10/16/14]

Ryan Zinke, in 2016, co-signed a letter to the director of the Bureau of Land Management expressing concern "about the lack of local involvement in critical land management decisions."

Ryan Zinke and 13 other members of the House of Representatives, on February 12, 2016, sent a letter to Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze expressing concern "about the lack of local involvement in critical land management decisions made by the Bureau of Land Management [BLM]." They objected to land use decisions being "left up to the federal government rather than being pushed down to the local level" and "strongly urge[d] both local and DC BLM staff to work in conjunction with residents and county officials to ensure every detail requiring public input is clearly communicated and circulated." [Ryan Zinke et. al. to Neil Kornze, 02/12/16]

Ryan Zinke, in 2016, co-signed a letter urging a change to "allow states to manage preservation efforts of the Mexican Gray Wolf without interference from the federal government," because the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service has "proven to be incapable" in this area.

Ryan Zinke, on March 22, 2016, co-signed a letter that was sent to the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies asking the subcommittee to include language in their appropriations bill that would "allow states to manage preservation efforts of the Mexican Gray Wolf without interference from the federal government." The letter claims the Fish and Wildlife Service has "proven to be incapable of managing Mexican wolf recovery efforts" and that the agency "arbitrarily" listed the wolf as an endangered subspecies. They argued that the Fish and Wildlife Service is "incapable" of recovery efforts, because "45% of the Service engineered pups did not survive in 2015," and in 2015 the Mexican wolf's overall population numbers "declined on the Service's watch."
Environmental groups argued that it's "disingenuous" to say that states would do a better job saving wolves, because in the past state management of endangered populations has had "deadly consequences for wolves." They argued that the "failure" of the federal government's revamping the wolf recovery plan "stems from federal officials catering to states and the states bowing to a narrow band of ranching and hunting interests." [Brandon Loomis, "Arizona lawmakers want control of endangered Mexican gray wolves," Arizona Republic, 08/12/16; Paul Gosar et. al. to Ken Calvert and Betty McCollum, 03/22/16; Susan Montoya Bryan, "Two US senators want states included in wolf management," Casper Star-Tribune, 05/03/16]

Ryan Zinke voted in committee for an amendment to transfer authority to set fishing seasons from federal to state control. On the same day he voted to allow regional fisheries "greater flexibility" to change fish catch totals, allowing decisions on whether limits should remain or be lifted to be "based less on traditional science" and more on "first-hand observations" from fishermen. He also voted in committee for an amendment that transferred authority to set fishing seasons from federal to state control.

Ryan Zinke, on April 30, 2015, voted in the House Natural Resources for H.R. 1335, which was a bill to reauthorize the "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the top law regulating fishing in U.S. oceans, and give regional fisheries managers greater flexibility to shift catch totals as ocean conditions and science change." Under this legislation, "a fishing stock's status – and whether limits should remain or be lifted – could be based less on traditional science and more on first-hand observations and data collected at docks from fishermen bringing their hauls to shore." The bill was passed at the urging of "recreational fisherman economically stung by...catch limits." However, "environmentalists and some fishermen oppose[d] the change, arguing it would gut safeguards necessary to protect once-endangered fish populations. They say hard science would give way to anecdotal evidence that might give a false impression of a stock's health." [House Natural Resources Committee, 04/30/15; Matthew Daly, “House passes bill to give regional managers greater say in fishing; White House threatens veto,” Associated Press, 06/01/15; "House bill would ease federal fish catch limits," USA Today, 05/19/15]

On the same day Zinke voted in committee for the Graves amendment to H.R. 1335, which was an amendment to transfer authority from to set fishing seasons from the federal level, where it is currently managed by "NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council," to "a new consortium of five Gulf states." [House Natural Resources Committee, 04/30/15, The Times-Picayune, 06/04/15, and Naples Daily News, 07/19/15]

Ryan Zinke, in 2016, voted to allow "'demonstration areas' made up of national forests with governor-appointed advisory committees steering management under state and private forestry regulations," which would provide "a path to privatizing forests by stripping federal authority" and undermining "'bedrock environmental laws, including the Clean Water and Clean Air acts.'" At the time, his spokesman said "he has always supported more say from local communities in forest management while not supporting transfer of ownership."
In 2016, Ryan Zinke "voted in favor of the Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act, legislation allowing 'demonstration areas' made up of national forests with governor-appointed advisory committees steering management under state and private forestry regulations. Demonstration areas up to 4 million acres total could be designated at the behest of the committees. The act, which passed committee 25-13," aimed "to generate local economic activity in communities dependent on national forests."

John Todd, Montana Wilderness Association conservation director, argued that the bill would provide "a path to privatizing forests by stripping federal authority," which "would undermine bedrock environmental laws, including the Clean Water and Clean Air acts, and give extractive industry exclusive control of our national forests." The "unprecedented approach to transferring and industrializing public lands would lead to the loss of clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreational use of public lands that are owned by all Americans."

Zinke disputed the notion that this was at odds with his position on land transfers. His spokesperson said "he has always supported more say from local communities in forest management while not supporting transfer of ownership." [Tom Kuglin, "Conservation and access groups slam Zinke's vote as land transfer flip flop," Helena Independent Record, 06/16/16]

**Ryan Zinke, in 2014, said he supported a bill that would have resulted in a "six-fold increase in timber harvest from Montana's nine national forests."**

Congressman Steve Daines, in 2014, was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1526, which mandated "annual harvests of one-half the Forest Service's long-term sustainable yield for each national forest." This would have been a "six-fold increase in timber harvest from Montana's nine national forests, from 62.5 million board feet cut in 2012 to a regular production of 380.5 million board feet." Critics of the measure said the bill "would gut the National Forest Management Act." [Rob Chaney, "Daines' plan calls for six-fold increase in Montana logging," The Missoulian, 09/29/13]

Ryan Zinke supported "Rep. Daines' legislation to increase timber harvest." [Tom Kuglin, “Transferring federal lands to Montana: Political theater or a viable option?,” Helena Independent Record, 08/31/14]

**Ryan Zinke pushed "a forest management rider" that would allow "the Forest Service to limit its analysis of logging projects" and "allow logging projects of 3,000 acres or less to skip some environmental review."

In 2015 Ryan Zinke pushed "a forest management rider" to "an omnibus budget bill" that "would have allowed the Forest Service to limit its analysis of logging projects to only the proposed version or no action [instead of looking at multiple options of varying sizes], and allow logging projects of 3,000 acres or less to skip some environmental review through 'categorical"
Ryan Zinke was an author of and voted in committee for legislation to "increase timber production on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands" and "speed environmental reviews" for some logging plans to make it more difficult for opponents to file lawsuits against the Forest Service.

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, "partly authored" and voted in committee for H.R. 2647, which was legislation to "allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to transfer funds to the Forest Service to fight wildfires" and speed "environmental reviews for logging plans of up to 15,000 acres developed by consensus-building groups." It would modify "federal forest management practices to increase timber production on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management [BLM] lands as a means of promoting greater forest health and reducing wildfires." The bill would also provide "for expedited actions by federal agencies by expanding the types of forestry activities that can occur without environmental impact statements and by accelerating environmental reviews for salvage operations and reforestation activities after catastrophic events." The legislation included provisions to create "certain instances where plaintiffs who bring a lawsuit against the Forest Service would not be able to recover attorney's fees if successful and would be liable to cover the Forest Service's legal fees if the suit is not successful."

Environmental groups have said the legislation "amounts to another effort by the timber industry and its allies to run roughshod over environmental laws." The legislation passed out of committee 22 to 15, with 15 Democrats voting against it. [House Natural Resources Committee, 06/11/15; David Bell, "Bill to allow harvesting in federal forests passes House," Eastern Arizona Courier, 07/16/15; "Legislative Week: This Week on the House Floor," Congressional Quarterly's House Action Reports, 07/06/15, Rob Chaney, "House passes forest management bill co-authored by Zinke," The Missoulian, 07/09/15; Jeff Mapes, “Is a deal on federal timber policy in the offing? House GOP hopes so as it passes new logging bill,” The Oregonian, 07/09/15]

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, released a "land management plan" that called "for expanding access to public roads for snowmobiles and recreational off-highway vehicles."

"In his federal land management plan released Oct. 15 [2014], Republican U.S. House candidate Ryan Zinke, of Whitefish, called for better coordination between federal agencies and counties in decisions that affect access to public lands. His plan directs federal agencies to take land-management actions that benefit fishing, shooting sports and outdoor recreation."

Additionally, "Zinke's plan also calls for expanding access to public roads for snowmobiles and recreational off-highway vehicles. He said he wants to address abuse of federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act and opposes expanding habitat for grizzly bears and sage grouse
without scientific evidence that it will improve populations." ["Candidates don’t support land transfer,” Hungry Horse News, 10/22/14]

**Ryan Zinke thinks the EPA is run like a criminal operation.**

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, said allowing EPA to regulate water and flood plains is "kind of like handing over the keys to a criminal – of your car. It’s just not a good idea because you never know where that car is going to go. This administration has had a number of issues that have been overreach." ["Talk Back With Congressman Ryan Zinke and UM Law Professor Jeff Renz,” Newstalk KVGO, 09/08/13, (03:00)]

**Ryan Zinke, in 2016, co-signed a letter to the EPA expressing support for continued use of atrazine, which is a weed killer that has been "linked to cancer and birth defects." The authors argued that it would be "irresponsible" to "greatly restrict" atrazine.**

Ryan Zinke, on November 1, 2016, co-signed a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency that expressed concern with the EPA's "draft ecological risk assessment on atrazine." The authors of the letter argued that it would be "irresponsible" to "greatly restrict" atrazine, and claimed that the "EPA's draft ecological risk assessment throws [atrazine's] future use into doubt, an outcome that, according to many, may not be scientifically justified." Atrazine, which is a weed killer, has been "one of the most widely used herbicides in the United States for decades," and the letter Zinke signed claims that it "has been safely used for over fifty years."

However, research has shown that atrazine "may be linked to cancer and birth defects." Experts consider atrazine "an endocrine disruptor" that has "been tied to abnormal sexual development in animals." The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has warned that "long-term exposure to atrazine may cause a variety of health problems, including weight loss, heart damage and muscle spasms," after high levels of atrazine were found in Wisconsin drinking water. Atrazine is "widely found in streams and drinking water near farms where it's used," and some cities "have spent millions of dollars to dilute or filter out atrazine levels from drinking water." [Rachael Lallensack, “‘Strict’ pesticide rules fail to erase threat to Wisconsin’s drinking water,” Wisconsin Center for Journalism, 10/16/16; “Wisconsin farm groups fight EPA on atrazine levels,” Associated Press, 09/13/16; Letter from Ken Buck et. al. to Gina McCarthy, 11/01/16; Tom Philpott, “Trump’s Climate-Denying EPA Pick Also Thinks Pesticides Are Harmless,” Slate, 11/18/16]

**Climate Change**

Ryan Zinke has been all over the map on climate change. He signed a letter to President Barack Obama "urging climate change legislation," but he also said climate change is "'not proven science'" and that as a geologist "he has seen no scientific evidence...that climate change is changing the weather." Zinke, who is not a geologist, "doesn't even think that climate change is manmade."
In 2009, Ryan "Zinke wrote a guest column in the Flathead Beacon supporting new wind, solar and biomass facilities and later signed a letter to President Obama urging climate change legislation." [Troy Carter, "U.S. House race: Zinke presents energy plan," Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 07/30/14]

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, "said he is a geologist and that he has seen no scientific evidence...that climate change is changing the weather." [Troy Carter, "Zinke: Lewis wrong on energy," Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 06/18/14]

He also said in reference to climate change, "it's not a hoax, but it's not proven science either." [Charles Johnson, "Lewis, Zinke debate federal budget, health care, global warming," Billings Gazette, 10/04/14]

"He doesn’t even think that climate change is manmade." ["Shields and Brooks on Sen. Joni Ernst’s response to the 2015 State of the Union," PBS Newshour, 01/20/15]

Ryan Zinke, since becoming Secretary of the Interior, has said “as a credential booster” and to justify decisions “that he was a geologist or former geologist” dozens of “times in public settings, including many under oath before Congress.” He has done so “while discussing coal revenue, seismic activity, climate change, national monuments, precious metals, endangered species, fracking and drilling.” Ryan “Zinke, however, has never held a job as a geologist.”

“Since becoming leader of the 70,000-employee” Department of the Interior, Ryan “Zinke has suggested that he was a geologist or former geologist at least 40 times in public settings, including many under oath before Congress. He uses it as a credential booster, saying things such as, ‘I can tell you, from a geologist, offshore mining of sand is enormously destructive environmentally, as in comparison to seismic,’ as he told the House Natural Resources Committee.” He has “fallen back on his geology degree to justify his decisions.”

Ryan Zinke has used “it while discussing coal revenue, seismic activity, climate change, national monuments, precious metals, endangered species, fracking and drilling.”

“Zinke, however, has never held a job as a geologist,” though “in his autobiography, Zinke wrote that he majored in geology at the University of Oregon, which he attended on a football scholarship, and chose his major at random.” Many “geologists...have flagged his comments as disingenuous, saying that someone with a 34-year-old degree who never worked in the field is not considered a geologist.” [Sara Ganim, “Ryan Zinke refers to himself as a geologist. That’s a job he’s never held,” CNN, 04/17/18]

Ryan Zinke voted in committee for an amendment to prohibit the Department of Defense from "carry[ing] out executive orders containing provisions relating to preparing the United States for the impacts of climate change," and he wrote legislation to "prohibit U.S. trade negotiators from using trade agreements to make climate change policy."
Ryan Zinke, on April 27, 2016, voted in the House Armed Services Committee for the Fleming amendment to H.R. 4909, which was an amendment to "prohibit the Defense Department from using authorized funds to carry out executive orders containing provisions relating to preparing the United States for the impacts of climate change and sustainable energy practices." The amendment was rejected by one vote, with four Republicans joining with 26 Democrats to vote against it. [House Armed Services Committee, 04/27/16; CQ Committee Coverage of the House Armed Services Committee, 04/27/16]

Paul Ryan added to a 2015 customs bill language written by Ryan Zinke to "prohibit U.S. trade negotiators from using trade agreements to make climate change policy." The customs bill was part of the "package that would make approving the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement [TPP] a straight up-and-down vote in Congress." [CQ Committee Coverage of the Rules Committee, 06/10/15; Samantha Page, "Paul Ryan’s New Amendment Would Make The Obama Trade Deal Even Worse For The Climate," ThinkProgress, 06/11/15]

Ryan Zinke, in his written responses to questions asked by senators during the confirmation process, said "I believe that the impacts of climate change are uncertain and that we have not yet determined the best way or ways to address it," and while "climate is changing" and "man is an influence," there’s debate on "what that influence is" and "what can we do about it."

Zinke said, "I believe that the impacts of climate change are uncertain and that we have not yet determined the best way or ways to address it." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Questionnaire, Ryan Zinke, 01/17/17]

Zinke said one of the three tenants of climate change was that it was being caused by man. [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Zinke said, "So, climate is changing; man is an influence. I think where there's debate on it is what that influence is; what can we do about it." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ryan Zinke Hearing, 01/17/17]

Ryan Zinke, in his written responses to questions asked by senators during the confirmation process, did not give a straight yes or no answer when he was asked if he would support "continued climate change research and education" at the Department of the Interior's eight Climate Science Centers.

When asked by Senator Ron Wyden if he would "support the continued climate change research and education" at the Department of Interior's eight Climate Science Centers, Zinke did not give a straight yes or no answer but said, "I value and support collaboration with public and private research institutions. As mentioned at the confirmation hearing, I believe that programs are most effective when they operate according to "clear and precise" goals. I look forward to a complete review of the eight DOI Climate Science Centers and their results over
the past six years as we develop an agenda for moving forward." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Questionnaire, Ryan Zinke, 01/17/17]

Ryan Zinke, in May 2015, co-signed a letter that opposed reducing ozone "from 75 parts per billion [ppb] to a range between 60 and 70 ppb," because changing the standard levels could cause "significant economic harm to local economies" within "the intermountain western U.S. and along the U.S. border." In July 2015, he co-signed a letter opposing the EPA's "proposed new ozone National Air Quality Standards." The authors of the letter encouraged the EPA to "support economic growth" by "maintaining the existing 75 ppb ozone standard."

Ryan Zinke, in May 2015, co-signed a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency opposing a November 2014 proposed rule to "tighten the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard [NAAQS] for ozone from 75 parts per billion [ppb] to a range between 60 and 70 ppb." Zinke and other members of Congress claimed that the new proposed levels "would be unachievable for many states with already high levels of background ozone" and that changing the standard levels could cause "significant economic harm to local economies" within "the intermountain western U.S. and along the U.S. border." [Mia Love et. al. to Gina McCarthy, 05/19/15]

In her June 2015 response to Ryan Zinke, Janet McCabe of the Environmental Protection Agency disputed the claim that the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [NAAQS] proposed rule would negatively impact the economy, saying that the "great progress in improving air quality and public health in the United States" that the EPA had made had not come "at the expense" of the economy. McCabe continued, "over the past 40 years, air pollution has decreased by nearly 70 percent while the economy has tripled." [Janet McCabe to Ryan Zinke, 06/17/15]

In July 2015, Ryan Zinke co-signed a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency opposing "proposed new ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards." Zinke and other members of Congress claimed that the "air is cleaner today than it has been in thirty years" and in their letter they encouraged the EPA to "support economic growth" by "maintaining the existing 75 ppb ozone standard." They also claimed that "EPA is just now providing states with guidance to implement the 2008 standard, and the state-federal clean air partnership should be allowed an opportunity to work" before the EPA implemented new standards. [Robert Latta et. al. to Gina McCarthy, 07/28/15]

After the Supreme Court stayed the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, Ryan Zinke, in 2016, co-signed a letter that accused EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy of trying to undermine its ruling.

Ryan Zinke, in June 2016, co-signed a letter regarding "the Supreme Court's orders granting applications from states and stakeholders to stay the 'Clean Power Plan.'" In their letter, they expressed concern that EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy had made statements that, they claimed, "undermine[d] the certainty that the American people deserve and the Supreme Court
was seeking to provide when it granted... stay to the CPP and toll its deadlines." [John Ratcliffe et. al. to Gina McCarthy, 06/23/16]

**In 2014, Ryan Zinke co-signed a letter to the EPA opposing a draft rule to "'regulate 'major sources' of emissions in the ceramic tile industry.'"** The authors of the letter claimed that there were "no major sources of air emissions in the ceramic tile industry."

In July 2014, Ryan Zinke co-signed a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency opposing a draft rule to "'regulate 'major sources' of emissions in the ceramic tile industry.'" Zinke and other members of Congress claimed that the regulation was "needless" because there were "no major sources of air emissions in the ceramic tile industry." [James Inhofe et. al. to Gina McCarthy, 07/14/14]

**Ryan Zinke, in 2015, opposed the proposed Renewable Volume Obligations requirement under the Renewable Fuel Standard because higher-blend ethanol fuel mixtures could "cause adverse impacts on American Consumers and the economy."**

Ryan Zinke, in November 2015, co-signed a letter to the EPA expressing "significant concern with the recently proposed 2016 Renewable Volume Obligations [RVO] under the Renewable Fuel Standard [RFS]." The letter said the proposed change would "constitute a breach of the ethanol blendwall...-- the point at which the gasoline supply is saturated with the maximum amount of ethanol that the current vehicle fleet, marine and other small engines, and refueling infrastructure can safely accommodate." The letter said this would "cause adverse impacts on American Consumers and the economy." [Bill Flores et. al. to Gina McCarthy, 11/04/15]

**Ryan Zinke has said he supports biomass energy because it is a "sustainable, responsible, renewable, and economically significant energy source" and it benefits "the vitality and health of our nation's forests." In 2016, Zinke advocated for the biomass industry by asking EPA to meet with "private landowners, producers, and utilities" prior to a public stakeholder workshop.**

In July 2015, Ryan Zinke co-signed a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Energy, and the US Department of Agriculture, in which Zinke and other members of Congress expressed support for biomass energy because it was a "sustainable, responsible, renewable, and economically significant energy source." They continued to say that they "support[ed] renewable biomass to create jobs and economic growth while meeting our nation's energy needs." [Reid Ribble et. al. to Gina McCarthy, Ernest Moniz, and Tom Vilsack, 07/31/15]

Ryan Zinke, in February 2016, co-signed a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency asking them to clarify their "policy on forest biomass EPA in the final Model Rule for state implementation plans [SIP] under the Clean Power Plan [CPP]." The authors of the letter wrote that "the biomass power industry provide[d] significant benefits to the vitality and health of our nation's forests" and asked the EPA to meet with biomass stakeholders, including "private
landowners, biomass producers, and utilities" in advance of a prescheduled stakeholder workshop "in order to find common ground." [Bruce Westerman et. al. to Gina McCarthy, 02/16/16]

Wildfires

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, voted to reduce funds in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill by "1 percent across-the-board," resulting in a vote to cut "wildland firefighting and prevention programs" by $36 million.

On July 8, 2015, Ryan Zinke voted for an amendment offered by Marsha Blackburn to the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2016 to "reduce funds in the bill by 1 percent across-the-board." The bill that Zinke voted to cut funded "wildland firefighting and prevention programs at $3.6 billion," fully funded "the 10-year average for wildland fire suppression costs for both the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service and provide[d] $526 million for hazardous fuels management." Consequently, Zinke voted to cut "wildland firefighting and prevention programs" by $36,000,000. [Roll Call Vote 407, United States House of Representatives, 07/08/15; H. Amdt 589, United States House of Representatives, 114th Congress; Press Release, House Committee on Appropriations, 06/09/15]

In 2015, Ryan Zinke voted against budget legislation that would have allowed the House Committee on Appropriations an "additional amount of budget authority" when it came to "making appropriations for wildfire suppression operations."

Ryan Zinke, on March 25, 2015, voted against the Van Hollen Substitute Amendment and the Butterfield Substitute Amendment for H. Con. Res. 27, which were both Democratic budget substitutes to the Republican budget. Both of these amendments would have allowed for legislation "making appropriations for wildfire suppression operations for fiscal year 2016 that appropriate[d] a base amount equal to 70 percent of the average cost of wildfire suppression operations over the previous 10 years and provide[d] an additional appropriation of up to but not to exceed $1.5 billion for wildfire suppression operations... the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations [to] be adjusted by the additional amount of budget authority above the base amount and the outlays resulting from that additional budget authority." Van Hollen's amendment failed 160-264, with 160 Democrats voting for it and 22 Democrats joining the Republicans to vote against it; Butterfield's amendment failed 120-306, with 120 Democrats voting for it and 62 Democrats joining the Republicans to vote against it. [Roll Call Vote 139, United States House of Representatives, 03/25/15; H.Amdt.84 to H.Con.Res.27, United States House of Representatives, 114th Congress; Roll Call Vote 137, United States House of Representatives, 03/25/15; H.Amdt.82 to H.Con.Res.27, United States House of Representatives, 114th Congress]
Ryan Zinke, in 2015, voted against the Republican budget, which would have created a mechanism to allow for "decreasing forest hazardous fuel loads" and against creating a mechanism to allow for "reforming the budgeting process for wildfire suppression."

On April 30, 2015, Ryan Zinke voted against the Republican budget, "S. Con. Res 11 – An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025." Among other things, the budget legislation "Authorize[d] the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to adjust aggregates, allocations, levels, and limits included in this resolution if legislation is enacted that permits adjustments to discretionary spending limits to accommodate wildfire suppression funding" and also "Establishe[d] a spending-neutral reserve fund for legislation relating to increasing timber production from federal lands and providing funding to local governments until timber production levels increase, decreasing forest hazardous fuel loads, improving stewardship contracting, or reforming the budgeting process for wildfire suppression operations without raising new revenue if the legislation would not increase the deficit over the FY2016-FY2020 or the FY2016-FY2025 periods."

The bill passed 226-197 and mostly along party lines, with 226 Republicans voting for it and 14 Republicans [including Zinke] joining the Democrats to vote against it. Democrats voted against the budget because it would "boost defense spending, slash social welfare programs and target ObamaCare." [S. Con. Res. 11, United States House of Representatives, 114th Congress; Bernie Becker, "House passes budget in win for GOP," The Hill, 04/30/15; Roll Call Vote 183, United States House of Representatives, 04/14/15]

In 2015, Ryan Zinke voted against a motion that would have required that "sufficient supplies of water [were] allocated both for drinking and the fighting of wildfires." The motion would have ensured that the underlying bill, which Zinke voted for, made "changes to Western water allocations" so that there would be "enough water in reservoirs, lakes, and community supplies to make sure that wildfires [could] be fought." That year, California was in the "fourth year of a prolonged drought," which made the state at "increased risk for wildfires." Earlier in the year California had experienced "two of the most deadly wildfires" in state history, "which killed 17 people." The motion's supporters described ensuring water to fight wildfires as "a matter of life and death."

Ryan Zinke, on July 16, 2015, voted for H.R. 2898, the Western Water and American Food Security Act, a bill to "direc[t] more water to agricultural users" in the Central Valley and "less to the benefit of farming in the [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta] and fishing, environmental and recreational interests in other parts of California and in Oregon." The bill passed 245-176. The bill passed mostly along party lines, with 5 Democrats joining 240 Republicans to vote for it, and 1 Republican joining 175 Democrats to vote against it. [Roll Call Vote 447, United States House of Representatives, 07/16/15; "Votes In Congress," The Gazette, 07/19/15]
require... that sufficient supplies of water [were] allocated both for drinking and the fighting of wild fires." The motion to recommit was a "bid" to prevent the underlying bill "from taking effect if it would reallocate water in California in a way that imperil[ed] drinking-water safety or diminish[ed] supplies needed for fighting wildfires." The motion was rejected completely along party lines, with 183 Democrats voting for it and 239 Republicans voting against it. [Roll Call Vote 446, CQ, 07/16/15; "Votes In Congress," The Gazette, 07/19/15]

Ami Bera, who introduced the motion to recommit, said the motion "ensure[d] that we [would] have safe drinking water for our constituents and enough water to fight wildfires" because it had "been hot and dry in California" and "95 percent" of the state had "reached severe drought status." Bera described the situation as a "crisis" that was affecting "families... farmers, [and] small- business owners who [were] feeling the pain of this prolonged drought every day."

Because California was "in the fourth year of a prolonged drought," Scott Peters said, the drought was "placing [California] at increased risk for wildfires." In 2015, California was "in the midst of... a long and harsh wildfire season" and by mid-July of that year "California fire officials ha[d] responded to more than 3,300 wildfires, which [was] a thousand more than the average from the [previous] 5 years," including "two of the most deadly wildfires in California history... which killed 17 people." The motion to recommit would ensure that as "changes to Western water allocations" were made by the underlying bill, there would be "enough water in reservoirs, lakes, and community supplies to make sure that wildfires [could] be fought." Peters concluded that ensuring the availability of water to fight wildfires was "a matter of life and death." [Motion to Recommit on Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015, Congressional Record, 07/16/15]

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, voted for a bill to "scale back the National Environmental Policy Act" and to "truncat[e] review procedures" for "large construction projects in the United States." He also voted against an amendment to the bill that would have required federal agencies to "adequately address risks associated with...wildfire" when constructing new projects.

On September 25, 2015, Ryan Zinke voted for H.R. 348, the Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development Act [RAPID Act] of 2015, a bill to "scale back the National Environmental Policy Act as a regulator of large construction projects in the United States." In particular, the RAPID Act "disavow[ed] the social cost of carbon emissions; se[t] a two-year deadline for completing environmental reviews; require[d] lawsuits challenging reviews to be filed within 180 days; limit[ed] the number of reviews per project; authorize[d] states to prepare alternative environmental assessments; and allow[ed] agencies to accept secondary rather than original analyses of environmental impacts. [Roll Call Vote 518, United States House of Representatives, 09/25/15; "Votes In Congress," The Gazette, 09/27/15]

Ryan Zinke voted against an amendment to H.R. 348 offered by Alan Lowenthal to ensure that federal agencies "adequately address[ed] risks associated with flooding, wildfire, and climate change" when constructing new projects. Because the RAPID Act's "truncated review procedures.... would potentially apply to construction projects of enormous size, scope, and
complexity" and because climate change posed "severe threats to the health, safety, and economies of local communities through the increased risks of floods, fire and severe weather," the Lowenthal amendment would have ensured that "federal agencies consider[ed] these impacts and construct[ed] projects that [were] resilient to the impacts of climate change." The amendment failed 170 to 228. The vote happened mostly along party lines, with four Republicans and 166 Democrats voting for it, and 225 Republicans and 3 Democrats voting against it. [Roll Call Vote 508, CQ, 09/25/15; House Report 114-261, 114th Congress, 09/16/15; Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015, Congressional Record, 09/24/15]

Ryan Zinke claimed that wildfires burning in Montana in 2015 were "due to decades of poor management of our forests," and he claimed that we can "minimize the risk of wildfires" if we improve "habitat health through responsible harvest and forest management." Zinke has also blamed environmental groups bringing "frivolous lawsuits" for hindering forest reform.

In 2015, Ryan Zinke claimed that wildfires burning in Montana that year were due "in part because of the dry and hot weather" but were "due even more so due to decades of poor management of our forests." [Ryan Zinke, "Let's not fiddle while Montana burns," Great Falls Tribune, 08/29/15]

When Ryan Zinke ran for Congress in 2014, he argued that federal agencies should "focus on managing lands in a way to promote forest and habitat health." Zinke claimed that if we "improv[e] habitat health through responsible harvest and forest management we can manage our forests in a way that will minimize the risk of wildfires and promote healthy habitat." [Charles Johnson, "Zinke wants federal land decisions OK'd by local government," The Montana Standard, 10/16/14]

Ryan Zinke, in September 2015, lamented that "the Forest Service ha[d] to transfer another quarter billion dollars to cover the exorbitant costs of firefighting" and that "fire fighters, rangers, resources, our forests themselves, and now our budgets have been pushed to their breaking points." Zinke has bragged that he "co-authored the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015," legislation that "solves the wildfire 'borrowing problem' by allowing the USFS to use funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fight fires." [Chris Griffin, "Rep Ryan Zinke Statement on USFS Wildfire Funding Gap," KMMS, 09/15/15; Ryan Zinke, "Let's not fiddle while Montana burns," Great Falls Tribune, 08/29/15]

Ryan Zinke has also blamed environmental groups bringing "frivolous lawsuits" for impeding forest reform. [Ryan Zinke op-ed, "Ryan Zinke: A wilderness bill will not put out wildfires," The Independent Record, 08/12/15]

Ryan Zinke, in April 2016, criticized a decision "by the Air National Guard to move military airborne firefighting systems from North Carolina to Nevada, rather than Montana." Zinke argued that Montana "desperately needed" the military airborne firefighting system for fighting
wildfires. [Kristin Wong, "Zinke blasts Air Guard decision not to base wildfire fighting assets in Montana," The Hill, 04/11/16]

In 2009, Ryan Zinke voted in the state legislature to revise the funding source to pay firefighters so that instead of funding coming from the "general fund of the state," funding would be "appropriated by the legislature."

Ryan Zinke, in March 2009, voted for HB 104, a bill to "revise source of funding for pay for state active duty for firefighting." This bill changed the funding source for state active duty firefighting so that instead of funding coming from the "general fund of the state," funding would be "appropriated by the legislature." [Vote on HB 104, Montana Senate, 03/30/09; HB 104, Montana Legislature, 61st Legislature]

Ryan Zinke, in 2009, voted for Montana to have "initial authority on all fires" and voted to urge Montana's federal delegation "to pass legislation" to allow Montana to have "active management of fuel loading" and to ensure "ability" to access forests.

In January 2009, Ryan Zinke, voted for SB 111, legislation to "mak[e] certain the state ha[dl] the initial authority on all fires in Montana." Supporters claimed the bill was "necessary because the U.S. Forest Service [was] not always fast enough." [Vote on SB 111, Montana Senate, 01/26/09; Matt Gouras, "Senate moves fire bills," Associated Press, 01/24/09]

Ryan Zinke, in March 2009, voted for both HJ 4, a resolution to "Urge authority for gubernatorial wildfire fuel hazard crisis," and for HJ 7, a resolution to "Urge modification of federal wildfire policy." These two resolutions urged the Montana "federal delegation to pass legislation" to allow Montana to have "active management of fuel loading" and to ensure "ability" to access forests. [Vote on HJ 4, Montana Senate, 03/30/09, Vote on HJ 7, Montana Senate, 03/21/09; Chas Vincent, "Column: Legislator gives update on session's bills, resolutions," The Western News, 04/21/09]

Ryan Zinke, in 2009, voted to allow counties to be able to impose "a property tax levy" for "forest or grassland hazardous fuels reduction projects" in areas "where wildland fire [was] a threat."

Ryan Zinke, in January 2009, voted for SB 98, a bill to "authorize local taxing jurisdiction for wildland fuel reduction projects." This was a bill to allow counties to impose "a property tax levy for any public or governmental purpose" for "forest or grassland hazardous fuels reduction projects in areas near homes and communities where wildland fire [was] a threat." [Vote on SB 98, Montana Senate, 01/21/09; SB 98, Montana Legislature, 61st Legislature]

Ryan Zinke, in 2011, voted against providing workers' compensation to volunteer firefighters.
In March 2011 Ryan Zinke voted against HB 552, legislation to "provide workers' comp to volunteer firefighters and EMS workers." [Vote on HB 552, Montana Senate, 03/17/11; Bill Actions for HB 552, Montana Legislature, 62nd Legislature]

In 2009, Ryan Zinke voted against legislation intended to eliminate "age discrimination" against older firefighters. This was legislation that the bill's supporters claimed would "put rural fire districts on par with municipal fire departments."

Ryan Zinke, in February 2009, voted against SB 373, a bill intended to "eliminate" "age discrimination" by allowing "all Montana residents able to perform the essential functions of the job of firefighter by eliminating an age distinction largely based on concern for the retirement and disability system." Supporters of the bill also claimed that it would "put rural fire districts on par with municipal fire departments in the recruitment and retention of full time, paid firefighters." [Vote on SB 373, Montana Senate, 02/24/09; William B. Hanson, "SB 373—Complete the Work Started By the 2007 Legislature When It Enacted SB 532 and Avoid Illegal Discrimination Against Firefighters Over 34," Hearing of the Montana Senate Committee on Business, Labor and Economic Affairs, 02/12/09]

In February 2011 Ryan Zinke voted for SB 222, legislation to "revise qualifications for firefighters." This bill eliminated the requirement that a firefighter could not be "more than 34 years of age" at the time of their "original appointment" as a firefighter. [Vote on SB 222, Montana Senate, 02/09/11; Bill Actions for SB 222, Montana Legislature, 62nd Legislature; "SB 222," Montana Legislature, 62nd Legislature]

**Record As Interior Secretary**

*Energy Influence*

Secretary Ryan Zinke, in October 2017, appeared at an industry "listening session" entitled "Cut the Red Tape: Liberating America from Bureaucracy" at the White House. He told attendants of the roundtable that the Interior Department would eliminate regulations and be a "partner" to industry.

At the October 2017 event, Zinke said, "We're not only going to look at every regulation we have now, but we're going to reduce it. We're looking at two-for-one. Every time we put something in, we're going to try to get two out, and remove the excessive burden and again be partners." [Video 01, Cutting the Red Tape: Liberating America from Bureaucracy, 10/02/17 [00:17:24]]

Ryan Zinke's Interior Department, in a presentation to BLM's Executive Leadership Team, said that BLM is "not interested in acquiring new areas for federal management." He said that "major priorities" include "energy security and mineral development."
Wyoming BLM Director Mary Jo Rugwell says that Ryan Zinke's Acting BLM Director Michael Nedd identified BLM's "major priorities," which include "energy security and mineral development," grazing, and "increasing access for sportsmen and recreation." Another of Nedd's "major priorities" is that BLM is "not interested in acquiring new areas for federal management of wilderness." [BLM-2018-00030 (WY BLM) Sage Grouse EO Comms, 07/25/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke referred to Michael Nedd as "'an energy guy'" when he made Nedd Acting Director of the Bureau of Land Management in March 2017. This appointment signaled "Secretary Ryan Zinke's 'focus on creating...energy jobs on public lands.'" After being appointed acting director, Nedd said he would "'push all'" energy sources to "'let the market decide'" which energy sources to invest in. Michael Nedd, as acting director, fell in step with Secretary Ryan Zinke's energy dominance priorities. At Secretary Zinke's behest, Nedd asked for public input for ideas on how to make "'BLM's planning procedures and environmental reviews timelier and less costly.'" When Secretary Zinke signed a secretarial order "to tackle permitting backlogs and delays," Nedd said that his agency has also "'been examining 'how do we make certain'" that the oil and gas permitting process "'doesn't take so long.'"

In March 2017, after Ryan Zinke was confirmed as Interior Secretary, he made Nedd the "interim head" of the Bureau of Land Management. Interior said that Nedd's appointment signaled "Secretary Ryan Zinke's 'focus on creating responsible energy jobs on public lands where appropriate.'" Secretary Zinke said of Michael Nedd, "'Let me make one thing clear, the Interior Department is in the energy business and Mike is an energy guy who understands the balance we must strike when developing resources and creating jobs on our public lands.'" Zinke continued, "'It is my hope that working together he will help identify areas where we can expand responsible mineral development while still conserving habitat and wildlife.'" [Thomas Burr, "Interior names energy and mineral chief new acting BLM director," Salt Lake Tribune, 03/15/17]

Shortly after being appointed acting director of the BLM, Michael Nedd said that, as acting BLM director he would "'push all of the energy sources... all gas, coal, hard-rock, and other minerals and renewable energy, and then we'll let the market decide which of those energies they want to invest in.'" He continued, "'The minute I start saying we're going to push one versus the other, then we start picking winners and losers. So we're going to push all the energy resources, and we're trying to create that kind of environment.'" Nedd has also said that "'one could argue - that under the [Obama] administration that scale could have been tipped too far on the environmental side and energy wasn't developed.'" ["NEWSMAKER: BLM's 'energy guy' may signal the end of big renewables," Greenwire, 03/31/17; Juliet Eilperin, "In the push to deliver on campaign promises, Interior's energy drive looms large," Washington Post, 07/20/17]

When Secretary Zinke appointed Michael Nedd acting BLM director, Bob Abbey, who was BLM director during Obama's first term, described Nedd as "'a good soldier,'" meaning that Nedd "'will follow the direction given to him by Secretary Zinke.'" Abbey continued, "'If they want a renewed emphasis on oil and gas development, as it appears they do, Mike will steer the
agency in that direction." ["NEWSMAKER: BLM's 'energy guy' may signal the end of big renewables," Greenwire, 03/31/17]

In July 2017 the Bureau of Land Management, under Michael Nedd's leadership as acting director, issued a press release asking the public "for ideas on 'how we can make the BLM's planning procedures and environmental reviews timelier and less costly, as well as responsive to local needs.'" Interior Secretary Zinke had previously sent a memo to Michael Nedd, directing BLM "to begin the process for a possible new rulemaking that would 'identify where redundancies and inefficient processes exist and should be eliminated, while ensuring that we fulfill our legal and resource stewardship responsibilities.'" Nedd's subsequent request for comments was "'one of the first steps to replace the Planning 2.0 rule -- repealed by Congress.'" [Rob Chaney, "BLM reopens public input on rule-making," Missoulian, 07/03/17; "INTERIOR: BLM starts bid revamp land-use planning, NEPA reviews," Greenwire, 07/05/17]

On July 6, 2017, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "signed a secretarial order to tackle" oil and gas "permitting backlogs and delays, identify solutions to improve the permitting process on federal lands, and to identify solutions to improve access to additional parcels of federal land that are appropriate for mineral development.

When Secretary Zinke signed the order, Michael Nedd said that under his leadership, BLM "had been examining 'how do we make certain'" that the oil and gas permitting process "'doesn't take so long' to ensure that the administration was following through on its commitment to promote domestic energy production." [Press Release, Department of the Interior, 07/06/17; Dino Grandoni and Juliet Eilperin, "Interior issues order to speed drilling permits," Washington Post, 07/06/17]

Ryan Zinke's Interior Department supported President Trump's Fiscal Year 2018 budget request for the Bureau of Land Management, which was "a 13 percent cut from 2017," but it included increases in the oil and gas management and coal management programs.

President Trump's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget request for the Bureau of Land Management was a $1.1 billion budget, which was "a 13 percent cut from 2017 enacted levels." However, the President's budget request included a "proposed $16 million increase in the Oil and Gas Management program" and "an $8 million increase within the Coal Management program." [Kellie Lunney, "INTERIOR: Zinke defends reorganization, budget to skeptical senators," Greenwire, 06/21/17; Press Release, Department of Interior, 05/23/17]

Secretary Zinke's acting BLM Director Michael Nedd supported President Trump's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget request for the Bureau of Land Management. Nedd said that the "'President's budget gives the BLM the resources needed to carry out our multiple-use and sustained yield mission, which includes promoting American energy and mineral production on Federal lands and supporting local economies.'" He continued, "'The proposed budget will allow us to continue working with our non-Federal partners and strengthen these vital relationships in order to be good neighbors in the communities we serve. BLM lands create jobs in local
communities, and the President's budget supports traditional land uses such as timber harvesting, responsible energy development, grazing and recreation including hunting and fishing."

[Press Release, Department of Interior, 05/23/17]

On June 16, 2017, Michael Nedd sent out an email to BLM employees warning that the Fiscal Year 2018 budget request "could mean 1,000 fewer full-time equivalent employees across the nation." Nedd wrote that, "If this quota could not be reached through 'normal attrition' then BLM could 'seek authority from the Office of Personnel Management to offer early retirement and voluntary separation incentives later this year.'"

[Kellie Lunney, "INTERIOR: Zinke defends reorganization, budget to skeptical senators," Greenwire, 06/21/17; Press Release, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, 06/21/17]

Secretary Zinke's Special Assistant Kathleen Benedetto, in an address to BLM's Executive Leadership Team, said that managing a "large amount of federal estate" for "conservation purposes" is a "concern." She identified wilderness as another "concern" because only minerals can "drive progress."

Wyoming BLM Director Mary Jo Rugwell's memo of a July Executive Leadership Team meeting describes concerns expressed by Kathleen Benedetto. Benedetto said that one of her "concerns" is that "a large amount of federal estate is being managed for conservation purposes," and that "it takes minerals [as a raw material] to drive progress." Benedetto also identified Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics as "areas of concern." [BLM-2018-00030 (WY BLM) Sage Grouse EO Comms, 07/25/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke "revoked the [Interior] department's policy on offsetting the development impacts on natural resources."

The Obama administration expanded "the federal government's...'no net loss' wetlands policy, first established under President George H.W. Bush, which requires that any wetlands that are destroyed by human development be replaced somewhere else. The Obama policy...[applied] that concept to any natural resource – not just wetlands," and encouraged "agencies to replace those resources even before they're destroyed." [Gregory Korte, "Obama order requires agencies to offset environmental impacts of development," USA Today, 11/03/15]

"Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke revoked the department's policy on offsetting the development impacts on natural resources." [Corbin Hiar,"Zinke kills mitigation policy, orders new review of energy rules," E&E News, 03/29/17]

On March 28, 2017, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order on Promoting Energy Independence. The following day Secretary Ryan Zinke issued a Secretarial Order on American Energy Independence, which "revoked" Interior's "policy on offsetting the development impacts on natural resources and ordered a review of all its rules on climate change, mitigation and energy development." Secretary Ryan Zinke met with extractive industry representatives at least 50 times between March 2017 and June 2018.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was quick to praise President Trump's Energy Independence Executive Order. The next day, on March 29, 2017, Secretary Zinke issued Secretarial Order No. 3349, a Secretarial Order on "American Energy Independence," intended to "implement" President Trump's Executive Order. Secretary Zinke's S.O. 3349 "revoked the department's policy on offsetting the development impacts on natural resources and ordered a review of all its rules on climate change, mitigation and energy development." [Press Release, Department of the Interior, 03/28/17; Corbin Hiar, "Zinke kills mitigation policy, orders review of energy rules," E&E News, 03/29/17]

According to a Western Values Project analysis of Ryan Zinke's publicly available calendars and his more detailed travel schedules obtained from the Department of the Interior's website, and other public reporting, Secretary Zinke either met with energy executives, addressed industry groups, or toured energy facilities at least 50 times between March 2017 and June 2018. This number is likely lower than the actual number of times Zinke met with industry groups, as his calendar has become increasingly vague in recent months. ["Zinke Meeting with Extractive Industries & Conservation Groups - March 2017 to June 2018 - Extractive Industry Meetings," Western Values Project, and [Sara Ganim, Gregory Wallace and Ellie Kaufman, "Latest Zinke calendars stripped of most details about his meetings," CNN, 09/06/18]

“The monthly calendars the Interior Department has released publicly in response to Freedom of Information Act requests have often left off or obscured some meetings,” even though “keeping meetings off official calendars goes against the usual practice of a Cabinet secretary and flies in the face of transparency practices, according to experts.” According to at least one expert, this practice also “appears to violate federal law.” Many “of the undisclosed or obscured meetings included representatives from energy companies, whose interest in the Interior Department could stem from its ownership of public lands, regulation of mining and some energy production, and enforcement of certain environmental laws.”

“The monthly calendars the Interior Department has released publicly in response to Freedom of Information Act requests have often left off or obscured some meetings. More detailed accounts of Zinke's time are found in separate briefing memos prepared by his staff, which have not been released with the calendars and were obtained only by filing another FOIA request.”

“Keeping meetings off official calendars goes against the usual practice of a Cabinet secretary and flies in the face of transparency practices, according to experts.”
“‘It appears to violate federal law, which in my view requires that such records be maintained and produced,’ said Eisen, who is board chairman of the nonprofit Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank and a CNN political commentator.”

“Ryan Zinke’s very first meeting as interior secretary was never put on his official calendar. It was a meeting scheduled to last five minutes with Chris Cox, the executive director of the National Rifle Association’s lobbying arm, on the sidelines of an event with other sportsmen. Then on his second day in office, Zinke was scheduled to meet with Karl Simich, an apparent reference to the managing director of Sandfire Resources, an Australian mining company that had been trying to develop a copper mine in Central Montana for at least six years. It also wasn’t listed on his calendar.”

“Toward the end of his second week in office, Zinke was scheduled to speak by phone for about 30 minutes with Thomas F. Farrell, the president of Dominion Energy, a Virginia power company. That meeting was also revealed in an internal memo. There are only two entries on Zinke’s calendar that day: a daily meeting with senior staffers, and lunch.”

In another example, “his calendar described a meeting in May 2017 as between Rep. Chris Collins, a New York Republican, and him, but a memo prepared for the secretary ahead of the meeting revealed that executives from a large hospitality company that does business with the Interior Department also were there.”

In addition, many calendars released to the public “were recorded only as ‘external meeting’ or ‘internal meeting,’ meaning it was impossible to tell what the secretary was doing or with whom he was meeting.”

“Emails and briefing documents...with subject lines like ‘Secretary Daily Schedule’...list time frames, locations and attendees for meetings that do not appear on the calendar Zinke’s office released.”

“Several of the undisclosed or obscured meetings included representatives from energy companies, whose interest in the Interior Department could stem from its ownership of public lands, regulation of mining and some energy production, and enforcement of certain environmental laws.

For example, although Zinke was scheduled to meet on two occasions in 2017 with representatives of a major coal company, Peabody Energy, neither encounter is accurately described on his calendar. In May [2018], Zinke was to meet for dinner at the Trump-owned hotel in Washington with Scott Mason, an apparent reference to the former Trump campaign official who’s now a Peabody lobbyist. Zinke’s calendar indicates an event at that time, but the topic and attendees are redacted. That June, three Peabody executives were scheduled to meet with Zinke, according to emails from his scheduler. The secretary’s calendar disclosed only
‘Peabody Energy’ – with no way to tell whether that was the topic of the meeting or a reference to the people attending – and the names of several Zinke aides who were also at the meeting. Zinke also was to meet in May 2017 with the International Association of Drilling Contractors. The meeting was not listed on his calendar, but his scheduler included it in an email briefing to the secretary on his meetings for the week.

“A May 31, 2017 meeting in Alaska...is noted on Zinke’s trip itinerary as ‘Meeting with Mayor Harry Brower, North Slope Borough.’ But a briefing packet prepared ahead of the trip notes that two lobbyists from Van Ness Feldman, a firm that represents the borough in a lawsuit against the Interior Department, were also present.”

In some “cases, events were included on Zinke’s calendar, but redacted before the documents were made public. The redaction note ‘NR,’ or non-responsive, does not disclose why the redaction was made, and in multiple instances, the redacted information involves agency business.” For example, Ryan Zinke, on May 18, 2017, visited “an Interior-owned gun range with the US Park Police, an arm of the Interior Department. The visit is redacted from his calendar without an explanation for why.”

“...The meetings are coming to light now only because of internal memos and other notes, released through a Freedom of Information Act request, that reveal these meetings and others that were not noted on his calendar, glaring omissions from what is supposed to be a complete record of the secretary’s activities.” [Sara Ganim, Gregory Wallace and Aaron Kessler, “Interior Secretary Zinke kept some meetings off public calendar,” CNN, 07/20/18; Sara Ganim and Gregory Wallace, “Secretary Zinke’s calendar omissions date to his very first day in office,” CNN, 10/13/18]

Secretary Zinke has stacked his Interior Department full of political appointees who have represented extractive industries. As of November 2018, Zinke’s political appointees and nominees at Interior included 42 political appointees who have worked for extractive industries.

As of November 2018, Secretary Zinke’s political appointees and nominees at Interior included: 17 former lobbyists, 18 Trump campaign workers, 42 political appointees who have worked for extractive industries, and only a paltry seven political appointees who have worked in conservation. [Press Release, Western Values Project, 11/20/18]

"Tucked" in Donald Trump's "energy independence" executive order "is a sentence that" could make "it easier for energy companies to drill for oil in national parks," historic sites, and memorials. Ryan Zinke supported this executive order.

"Tucked" in Donald Trump's "energy independence" executive order "is a sentence that" could make "it easier for energy companies to drill for oil in national parks," which would potentially affect "national parks where the federal government owns the surface lands but private entities retain the underground mineral rights. Some 42 park properties nationwide fall into this
category, and energy companies are drilling for oil and gas in 12 of those, according to the Interior Department.

Last year, the Obama administration finalized rules aimed at regulating drilling operations on national park land that previously had been exempt. The new rules also required energy companies to provide adequate bonding to ensure that spills would be cleaned up and drilling sites restored to their natural look once operations ceased.

Trump’s order directs the interior secretary to review and possibly rescind those rules – known as the 9B rules, or 'General Provisions and Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights' – if they are inconsistent with his energy goals."

"At 12 park properties, energy companies operate 534 oil and gas wells, according to the National Park Conservation Association. At more than half the properties, energy development predated the founding of the parks, [DOI spokeswoman Heather] Swift said." [McClatchy Washington Bureau, 03/29/17]

There are currently two oil/gas wells in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, which is partly in Virginia, and 90 oil/gas wells in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, in Ohio. Based on ownership of mineral rights, oil/gas wells can also be drilled in:

- The Flight 93 National Memorial site in Pennsylvania;
- Fort Necessity National Battlefield in Pennsylvania;
- Friendship Hill National Historic Site in Pennsylvania;
- Johnstown Flood National Memorial in Pennsylvania;
- Steamtown National Historic Site in Pennsylvania;
- Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, which is partly in Pennsylvania; and
- Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Ohio.

"These parks are at risk of drilling because the federal government owns the surface lands and private companies own some of the mineral rights below the surface." [Nicholas Lund, National Parks Affected by 9B Rules, National Parks Conservation Association, 02/10/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke issued a "statement in support of President Trump’s American Energy Executive Order." [Press Release, Department of the Interior, 03/30/17]

**Rolling Back Public Land Protections**

Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended changing "the boundaries of a 'handful of national monuments'" in "a largely unprecedented effort to roll back federal protection for some of America’s most popular public lands," despite acknowledging that comments on the monument review were "overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining existing monuments."
Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced that he is urging President Trump "to change the boundaries of a 'handful of national monuments'" in "a largely unprecedented effort to roll back federal protection for some of America's most popular public lands." [Sammy Roth, "Trump Administration Targets a 'handful of National Monuments for Changes," The Desert Sun, 08/24/17]

Zinke's report summary acknowledges that the comments it received were "overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining existing monuments." ["Report Summary by US Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke," Department of the Interior, 08/24/17]

WEA, during Secretary Ryan Zinke's national monuments review, sent Secretary Zinke a letter asking that "perhaps some adjustments could be made to accommodate existing [oil and gas] leases" within the Bears Ears National Monument. Subsequently, Secretary Zinke recommended that President Trump reduce Bears Ears. In December 2017, when President Trump slashed Bears Ears by 85 percent, parts of the land cut out were rich in oil and gas, and nearly all 23 existing federal oil and gas leases that were in the original monument appear to have been carved out. Secretary Zinke also recommended that President Trump modify the management plan of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, which was another of the national monuments that WEA's letter identified as "contain[ing] oil and natural gas reserves."

The Western Energy Alliance [WEA] "represents over 300 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas across the West."

On July 10, 2017, WEA submitted via the Federal Register a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke regarding his "Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996." In their letter, WEA argued that "recent [monument] designations have far exceeded" the intent of the Antiquities Act and "have instead been used to place millions of acres off limits to productive uses such as energy development." WEA was "encouraged that DOI recognize[d] the need to limit abuses of the Act."

WEA continued, "Four of the monuments under review are known to contain oil and natural gas reserves: Bears Ears, Canyons of the Ancients, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, and the Upper Missouri River Breaks." WEA acknowledged that for Canyons of the Ancients, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, and the Upper Missouri River Breaks, "the history of these monuments and the time that has passed raises questions on whether readjusting them is a fruitful policy direction for the Department." However, WEA advocated, "given the recent nature of the Bears Ears designation and the fact that it has not yet undergone the management planning process, perhaps some adjustments could be made to accommodate existing leases, which are on the periphery of the monument and not of direct threat to the cultural resources the designation was meant to protect." [Kathleen Sgamma to Ryan Zinke, 07/10/17]
On August 24, 2017, shortly after receiving these documents from WEA, Bears Ears National Monument was one of the national monuments that Interior Secretary Zinke recommended that President Trump reduce. [Juliet Eilperin and Darryl Fears, "Interior secretary recommends Trump alter at least three national monuments, including Bears Ears," *Washington Post*, 08/24/17]

On December 4, 2017, President Donald Trump "sharply reduced" two national monuments in Utah, in what was the "largest rollback of federal land protection in the nation's history." He reduced Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent and "cut another monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, to about half its current size." [Julie Turkewitz, "Trump Slashes Size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Monuments," *New York Times*, 12/04/17]

President Trump followed through with Secretary Zinke's recommendation and reduced Bears Ears National Monument "by 85 percent." Sections of the land cut out from Bears Ears are "rich in oil, gas, and uranium that is now open to possible future extraction." Additionally, following WEA's request, nearly all 23 existing federal oil and gas leases that were in the original Bears Ears National Monument appear to have been carved out under the new monument boundaries. [Nadja Popovich, "Bears Ears National Monument Is Shrinking. Here's What Is Being Cut," *New York Times*, 12/08/17; Jayson O'Neill, "What was taken out of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments?" *Western Values Project*, 02/13/18]

Additionally, in his report, Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended modifying the management plan of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, another one of the monuments Western Energy Alliance mentioned in their letter. [Julie Turkewitz, Nadja Popovich, and Matt McCann, "Here Are the 10 National Monuments the Interior Department Wants to Shrink or Modify," *New York Times*, 09/18/17]

The reduction in Bears Ears eliminated 1.1 million acres of protected land and replaced the monument with two much smaller monuments. Within the 1.1 million acres cut out of the monument are vast swaths of sensitive desert landscapes and many iconic features. The sections of land cut from Bears Ears National Monument, in addition being rich in oil and gas, have uranium deposits that are now open to possible future extraction. In fact, much of the land cut from the Bears Ears National Monument is rich in uranium, which can now be extracted now that monument protections have been removed. The cut areas overlap with eight uranium districts identified by the Utah Department of Natural Resources, as well as several permitted uranium mines. Some of the uranium districts removed from Bears Ears abut Canyonlands National Park and Natural Bridges National Monument.

Donald Trump is reducing the 1.35 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument to two smaller monuments; A 140,643 Shash Jaa National Monument surrounding the Bears Ears buttes and an 86,447-acre monument called Indian Creek National Monument in the Northeastern section of what was Bears Ears National Monument. ["Boundaries of new monuments still vague, details becoming clearer," *San Juan Record*, 12/12/17]
The reduced monuments exclude previously-protected Cedar Mesa, a feature with "many archeological sites" that was included as a protected National Conservation Area in Rob Bishop's PLI. Additionally, the re-drawn boundaries exclude Arch Canyon, Upper Comb Ridge, Valley of the Gods, and all wilderness study areas. [Jonathan Thompson, "How to make sense of Trump's changes to Bears Ears," High Country News, 12/05/17]

The revised boundaries also exclude Grand Gulch, a part of Cedar Mesa described as "the crown jewel of Bears Ears and the most famous archeological areas in the monument." ["Trump erases 1.1 million acres of Bears Ears National Monument," Friends of Cedar Mesa, 12/04/17]

![Map of Bears Ears National Monument]

**Red:** Land cut from Bears Ears National Monument [Source: BLM]
**Green:** Boundaries of new National Monuments [Source: BLM]

Utah Governor Gary Herbert dismissed the possibility of oil and gas development in the Bears Ears area, but said, "'the only thing that smacks of energy is the uranium... the uranium deposits are outside the monument now.'" [Juliet Eilperin, "Uranium firm urged Trump officials to shrink Bears Ears National Monument," Washington Post, 12/08/17]

The Utah department of Natural Resources says the Bears Ears area "has been productive for uranium deposits in the past, and some of the mining districts within the monument continue to hold some promise for future uranium production." It identifies the uranium districts in Bears Ears in "decreasing order of importance" as "White Canyon, Elk Ridge, Deer Flat, Indian Creek, and Fry Canyon, which have moderate to low development potential." ["Very little energy potential within Bears Ears National Monument," Utah Department of Natural Resources, 12/04/17]

Data from BLM and the Utah DNR show that substantial portions of uranium districts have been carved from Bears Ears National monument, including on land that abuts Canyonlands National Park and Natural Bridges National Monument.
Secretary Ryan Zinke and others have downplayed the possibility of oil and gas development in Bears Ears, even claiming that the threat of development is "a silly narrative" because "there are no oil and gas resources" in Bears Ears. Others disagree. A Utah legislative commission tasked with public lands issues wrote a letter urging Secretary Zinke to shrink Bears Ears because the monument has "rich" oil and gas potential. Kathleen Sgamma of WEA concurred. She said there "certainly is industry appetite for development" in Bears Ears, referring to an effort from oil and gas operators to nominate BLM land in the Bears Ears area for leasing. San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman says the Bears Ears region "has been blessed with tremendous productive capacity" and "those who say there are no minerals in the monument are misinformed."

Ryan Zinke said, "I've heard this argument about Bears Ears' oil and gas; that's a nefarious argument... there are no oil and gas resources that anyone has reported in Bears Ears. It really is about multiple use and multiple use is grazing, timber management, recreation, being able to use in some places four-wheel drives." [Lee Davidson and Thomas Burr, "Trump greeted by cheers and protests as he visits Utah, trims 2 million acres from Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments," Salt Lake Tribune, 12/04/17]

A letter to Ryan Zinke from the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands says Bears Ears National Monument "encompasses rich uranium mines, gold mines, and oil and gas." They wanted the monument reduced or eliminated because they believed it threatened "existing oil

Kathleen Sgamma of the Western Energy Alliance said of Bears Ears, said "there certainly is industry appetite for development there [in Bears Ears], or else companies wouldn't have leases in the area." [Pamela King, "Changing Bears Ears designation is no western energy bonanza," E&E News, 4/03/17]

San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman, in a Facebook post, said, "those who say there are no minerals in the monument are misinformed. It is very true that extraction is unlikely, given the terrain, markets, federal 'protections,' and government regulations, but this region has been blessed with tremendous productive capacity." [Phil Lyman status update, Facebook, accessed 12/15/17]

Parts of the land carved out of Bears Ears include the oil-rich Paradox Basin and its underlying Cane Creek shale, which the Utah Geological Survey is researching to "identify potential exploration areas" for oil and gas.

The northeast corner of Bears Ears National Monument overlaps with the Cane Creek shale layer of the Paradox Formation, and there are "a few wells in BENW and the western Paradox Basin" in SE Utah. ["Very little energy potential within Bears Ears National Monument," Utah Department of Natural Resources, 12/04/17]

The Utah Geological Survey is currently researching the Cane Creek shale layer, which is part of the oil rich Paradox Basin. The Utah Geological Survey says the goal of its research is to "to identify potential exploration areas outside the current Cane Creek unit near Dead Horse Point State Park, as well as improve drilling and production techniques to reduce costs and environmental impacts." Both the Paradox Basin and the Cane Creek shale are under land that the Trump administration wants to carve out of Bears Ears National Monument. " [Craig D. Morgan, "Understanding Southeast Utah’s Cane Creek Oil, a Continuing Challenge," Utah Geological Survey, 05/02/15]

BLM said there is "high potential" and "moderate potential" for oil and gas development the Bears Ears region. Oil companies are aware of this and are "interested in exploration." Since 2013, producers have asked BLM to include 100,000 acres of land in or near Bears Ears in lease sales.

The Utah BLM's 2008 Resource Management Plan identified "much of the area" in what would later become Bears Ears National Monument as open to oil and gas leasing. A spokesman for BLM, Lisa Bryant, said in June 2017 that if Bears Ears is reduced, BLM would "continue to carefully consider all nominated parcels." [Brian Maffly, "Oil and gas industry will pounce if Bears Ears shrinks," Salt Lake Tribune, 6/19/17]
A map from BLM's 2008 Resource Management Plan for the area identified swaths of land within what became Bears Ears National Monument as having "high potential" or "moderate potential" for oil and gas development.

"Since 2013, energy companies have unsuccessfully asked the BLM to lease more than 100,000 acres for oil and gas development within or near public lands that became the monument," including "88 requested parcels, which are clustered along the eastern fringes of the monument, near Bluff on the south and Hatch Point on the north. The areas have long been subject to exploratory drilling." [Brian Maffly, "Oil and gas industry will pounce if Bears Ears shrinks," Salt Lake Tribune, 6/19/17]

Kirkwood Oil and Gas held leases within Bears Ears National Monument before it was designated in 2016. Its mineral rights were not impacted by the monument. [Brian Maffly, "Oil and gas industry will pounce if Bears Ears shrinks," Salt Lake Tribune, 6/19/17]

The oil industry "is still interested in taking a look. Energy companies have sent requests to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to include more than 100,000 acres of land within or near Bears Ears in upcoming lease sales. Those requests inform BLM how to design their oil and gas leasing. That doesn't mean they will follow through on drilling, but it does mean they are at least somewhat interested in exploration." [Nick Cunningham, "Don't count on a Utah shale oil boom despite President Trump actions," USA Today, 12/05/17]

There are 23 existing oil and gas leases within Bears Ears National Monument. The lessees include a variety of oil companies, including ExxonMobil, EOG Resources, Kirkwood Oil and Gas, Nerd Gas Co., EP Energy E&P Co LP, and Stone Energy Co. Other leases are held by
individuals, and some leases have operating rights belonging to another company. Nearly all of these leases appear to have been carved out of the Bears Ears National Monument.

Oil and gas producers are "working on the fringes" of Bears Ears National Monument, "to the east and the north of the current boundaries." Utah's BLM says there are "23 existing federal oil and gas leases, all at least partially or wholly located within the boundaries..." There are no permits to drill on those leases at this time." [Leigh Paterson, "Could drilling rigs pop up in Bears Ears National Monument in Utah?," NPR's Marketplace, 12/04/17]

Red: Original Bears Ears National Monument boundary [Source: BLM]
Green: National monument boundary after reductions [Source: BLM]
Grey: BLM oil and gas leases: [Source: UTAH Department of Natural Resources]
Source: BLM, Utah's SITLA

Lease number: UTU 067953
Acres: 2,560.00
Owner: Mark S. Dolar
Note: This lease's case disposition is pending. It has been carved from the monument.

Lease serial number: UTU 080055
Acres: 280.00
Owner: Mary Lou Kosanke
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been taken out of the monument.

Serial: UTU 080054
Acres: 320.00
Owner: Mary Lou Kosanke
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial UTU 080053
Acres: 320.00
Owner: Mary Lou Kosanke
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 085227
Acres: 320.00
Owner: EOG Resources
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial UTU 021548
Acres: 160.25
Owner: Charles Macdonald
Note: This lease's case disposition is pending. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 086242
Acres: 2,076.35
Owners: Nerd Gas Co LLC [48 percent], Kirkwood Oil and Gas LLC [percent], Everston Energy Partners LLC [2.5 percent], and Pamco Investments Corp. [2.5 percent]
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 079110
Acres: 40.00
Owner: Legacy Energy Corp
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 076338
Acres: 6,313.45
Owner: Kirkwood Oil and Gas LLC [50 percent], Nerd Gas Co LLC [50 percent]
Note: This lease is authorized. BWAB LTD Liability Co and Legacy Energy Corp. have "operating rights." It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial UTU 066830
Acres: 40.00
Owners: Nerd Gas Co LLC [50 percent] and Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC [50 percent]
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 067570
Acres: 160.00
Owners: Nerd Gas Co LLC [50 percent] and Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC [50 percent]
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 062910
Acres: 1,970.36
Owners: Nerd Gas Co LLC [50 percent] and Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC [50 percent]
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 052641
Acres: 1,600.00
Owner: Exxon Mobil.
Note: This lease is authorized. Exxon Mobil, Intrepid O&G LLC, and Fidelity Exploration & Production Co. have "operating rights." It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 072660
Acres: 1,048.04
Owners: Nerd Gas Co LLC [50 percent] and Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC [50 percent]
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 064930
Acres: 2,045.88
Owners: Nerd Gas Co LLC [50 percent] and Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC [50 percent]
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 067565
Acres: 1,184.98
Owners: Nerd Gas Co LLC [50 percent] and Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC [50 percent]
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 064931
Acres: 2,137.41
Owners: Nerd Gas Co LLC [50 percent] and Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC [50 percent]
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 066034
Acres: 1,880.00
Owner: EP Energy E&P Co LP. This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.
Serial: UTU 084668  
Acres: 1,503.42  
Owner: EOG Resources Inc. This case is closed. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 084335  
Acres: 240.00  
Owner: Stone Energy. This case is closed. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 085227  
Acres: 320.00  
EOG Resources. This case is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

Serial: UTU 079184  
Acres: 1,638.72  
Owners: Nerd Gas Co LLC [50 percent] and Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC [50 percent]  
Note: This lease is authorized. It has been carved from the monument boundary.

In addition to carving out the 23 oil and gas leases, the new Bears Ears National Monument boundaries carve out five oil and gas fields identified by the Utah Department of Natural Resources on the southeastern and northeastern edges of the monument.

The Utah Department of Natural Resources has identified potential for minerals in addition to oil, gas, and uranium in Bears Ears.
The Utah Department of Natural Resources has identified potential for the development of potash, salt, limestone, sand, and gravel within the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument. ["Very little energy potential within Bears Ears National Monument," Utah Department of Natural Resources, 12/04/17]

ExxonMobil owns one of the leases cut out of Bears Ears National Monument under the new boundaries. Secretary Ryan Zinke has previously accepted campaign contributions from ExxonMobil. His Press Secretary, Heather Swift, worked at a firm that lobbied for ExxonMobil, and Zinke's Interior Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs Todd Wynn previously led an ALEC task force. ExxonMobil was a member of this ALEC task force.

One of the leases that has been cut out of Bears Ears National Monument under the new boundaries is owned by Exxon Mobil. This lease is authorized; its acreage is 1,600 acres and its lease number is UTU 052641. [Utah Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, and Utah's SITLA]

Several high-ranking Interior Department officials have ties to Exxon Mobil. Before he was Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke accepted more than $11,500 in campaign contributions from Exxon Mobil. When Interior Press Secretary Heather Swift worked at DCI Group, a public relations and lobbying firm, DCI Group was paid $320,000 to lobby for Exxon Mobil. And when Interior Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs Todd Wynn led the American Legislative Exchange Council's Energy, Environment and Agriculture Task Force, one of the members of the task force was Exxon Mobil. ["Ryan Zinke," Department of Influence, accessed 12/20/17; "Heather Swift," Department of Influence, accessed 12/20/17; and "Todd Wynn," Department of Influence, accessed 12/20/17]

Intrepid Oil & Gas LLC has "operating rights" for a lease that was cut out of Bears Ears National Monument. Intrepid Oil & Gas LLC is a subsidiary of Intrepid Production Corporation, which owns a 13.9% stake in Intrepid Potash Inc. In January 2017, Secretary Zinke's Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt's former lobbying firm, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, registered Intrepid Potash as a lobbying client. Since then, Brownstein has been lobbying the federal government for Intrepid Potash on "mining and public lands" issues.

Intrepid O&G LLC, Exxon Mobil, and Fidelity Exploration & Production Co. all have "operating rights" for the abovementioned 1,600 acre lease, owned by Exxon Mobil, that was cut out of Bears Ears National Monument. [Utah Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, and Utah's SITLA]

Intrepid Oil & Gas LLC operates as a subsidiary of Intrepid Production Corporation. ["Company Overview of Intrepid Oil & Gas, LLC," Bloomberg, accessed 12/20/17]

In March 2017, Intrepid Production Corporation "picked up 18,034,122" Intrepid Potash Inc. shares, bringing "the aggregate amount owned by Intrepid Production Corp to... a 13.9% stake"
in Intrepid Potash Inc. [Richard Schwarz, "Intrepid Production Corp is Buying Intrepid Potash Inc. [NYSE:IPI] Shares," Small Cap Exclusive, 03/24/17]


Another lease that was cut out of Bears Ears National Monument under the new boundaries is owned by EP Energy E&P Co LP. Secretary Zinke's Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt previously lobbied for a company that "owns a significant interest" in EP Energy E&P Co LP.

One of the leases that was cut out of Bears Ears National Monument under the new boundaries is owned by EP Energy E&P Co LP. This lease is authorized; its acreage is 1,480 acres and its lease number is UTU066034. [Utah Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, and Utah's SITLA]

Before he was the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt was a lobbyist at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Shreck. In 2011 and 2012, Bernhardt lobbied the federal government on behalf of Access Industries, which "owns a significant interest in EP Energy." ["David Bernhardt," Department of Influence, accessed 12/20/17; "EP Energy," Access Industries, accessed 12/20/17]

Shrinking Bears Ears National Monument likely violates the Antiquities Act.

"Representatives from the Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, the Navajo Nation and the Ute Indian tribes...filed suit against President Donald Trump and a host of administration officials...alleging that Trump's decision to significantly shrink Bears Ears National Monument" based on work by Ryan Zinke "is 'in violation of the United States Constitution and the Antiquities Act of 1906,'" while "a group of environmental and conservation organizations sued Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for dramatically shrinking Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument." [Dan Merica, "Native American tribes, conservation groups sue Trump over monument changes," CNN, 12/05/17]

On December 4, 2017, Donald Trump took Secretary Ryan Zinke's advice and shrunk the size of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The monument has been replaced by three smaller monuments.
Donald Trump issued an order changing Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which was previously 1.9 million acres, into three smaller monuments; The Grand Staircase monument [209,993 acres], the Kaiparowits monument [551,034 acres], and the Escalante Canyon monument [242,836 acres]. [David DeMille, Trump signs order reducing Utah national monuments to smaller pieces, "St. George Spectrum, 12/04/17]

Red: Land cut from Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument [Source: BLM]
Green: Boundaries of new National Monuments [Source: BLM]

A number of sensitive and unique geological features have been carved out of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, including land abutting national parks, slot canyons, and hoodoos.


Land carved out of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument include the Kaiparowits Plateau, which includes Utah's biggest coal field. In fact, much of the area carved from Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument includes coal deposits, which will now become available for leasing. This includes land bordering national parks.

"The U.S. Geological Survey estimated that 62 billion tons of coal lies in the Kaiparowits Plateau, an area that was within Grand Staircase-Escalante and that is important to paleontologists for its Mesozoic Era past. It is Utah's biggest coal field, but there are no mining leases within it. In 1996, the year President Bill Clinton designated the monument, the federal government bought out the 18 existing leases." [Laris Karklis, et al, "Areas cut out of Utah monuments are rich in oil, coal, uranium," Washington Post, 12/07/17]

A substantial portion of land cut from Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument includes coal deposits recognized by the Utah Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, all
portions of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Park abutting Bryce Canyon and Capital Reef National Parks have been eliminated. Some of the portions of eliminated land abutting Bryce Canyon National Park include coal deposits.

Zinke advisor Downey Magallanes oversaw the "controversial review of more than two dozen national monuments." Magallanes' father is Frederick Palmer, who was previously the senior vice president of government relations at "coal-giant" Peabody Energy. Palmer claimed that his daughter "'recused herself from anything having to do with Peabody,'" but she had a meeting with Peabody Energy at least once since she started working at the Department of the Interior. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which President Trump gutted as a result of the review Magallanes helped lead, is "coal-rich."

Downey Magallanes "had several one-on-one meetings" with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to discuss his "controversial" national monuments review, "in the days before Aug. 24, [2017] when Zinke submitted his draft report to the White House." She also "traveled with Zinke to several monuments, including Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears, as part of his monuments 'listening tour.'"


Frederick Palmer "spent 37 years in the coal industry, 14 years of them as the senior vice president of government relations at Peabody."

Palmer said that he was "well aware and extremely proud of his daughter's work at the agency, including her lead role in the monuments review, and supports the administration's recent rollbacks." [Chris D'Angelo, "The Daughter Of An Ex-Coal Executive Helped Lead Trump's National Monuments Review," Huffington Post, 12/23/17]

"Schedules show Magallanes was among three Interior officials who joined Zinke on a June 5 video call with representatives of her father's former employer — roughly a month after she and Zinke's visit to Grand Staircase-Escalante." [Chris D'Angelo, "The Daughter Of An Ex-Coal Executive Helped Lead Trump's National Monuments Review," Huffington Post, 12/23/17]

While Peabody Energy "does not appear to have any historic or newfound interest in mining the Grand Staircase-Escalante area, which contains vast deposits of coal. Still, it's a resource that struggling coal companies like Peabody might see as a future opportunity." [Chris D'Angelo, "The Daughter Of An Ex-Coal Executive Helped Lead Trump's National Monuments Review," Huffington Post, 12/23/17]
Land cut from Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument also has potential for oil and gas development. In addition to carving out many of the monument’s nearly 50 oil and gas leases, President Trump’s reduction also excludes an oil field and opens up land adjacent to Capital Reef and Bryce Canyon National Parks to drilling.

"The original Grand Staircase-Escalante area also contains limited oil and gas reserves and about 50 authorized oil and gas leases... Most lie outside the new borders." [Laris Karklis, et al, "Areas cut out of Utah monuments are rich in oil, coal, uranium," Washington Post, 12/07/17]

The redrawn monument boundaries exclude authorized oil and gas leases throughout Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and open up land adjacent to Capital Reef National Park to drilling.
Red: land carved out of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument [Source: BLM]
Green: New monument boundary [Source: BLM]
Grey: Oil and gas leases [Source: Utah SITLA]
Orange dots: Historic oil and gas wells [Source: Utah DNR]
Blue: Capital Reef and Bryce Canyon National Parks [Source: NPS]

One portion cut from Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument includes an oil field identified by the Utah Department of Natural Resources. This portion has dozens of oil wells.
There are several authorized oil and gas leases filed with the BLM’s Grand Staircase-Escalante field office that were entirely or partially carved out of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Some of these abut Capital Reef National Park. The leases are owned by Trachyte Oil Co, Citation Oil & Gas, McMoran O&G, Basix AZ Energy, Kerr McGee O&G Onshore LP, and Viking Exploration, as well as several individuals.

Lease Number: UTU 007248
Acres: 2,474.00
Owner: Trachyte Oil Co
Note: Only a very small portion of this lease was in the monument, and it is still in the monument. This lease is authorized.

Lease Number: UTU 007168
Acres: 1,640.00
Owner: Trachyte Oil Co
Note: This has been partially taken out of the monument. This lease is authorized.

Leases Number: UTU 007169A
Acres: 2,120.00
Owner: Trachyte Oil Co
Note: This has been mostly taken out of the monument. This lease is authorized.
Lease Number: UTU 007168A  
Acres: 680.00  
Owner: TRACHYTE OIL CO  
Note: This has been taken out of the monument. This lease is authorized.

Leases Number: UTU 0019375  
Acres: 1,841.55  
Owner: Citation Oil and Gas Corp  
Note: Much of this was in the monument. It has been taken out. This lease is authorized.

Lease Number: UTU 0019376  
Acres: 2,551.42  
Owner: Citation Oil and Gas Corp  
Note: Portions of this have been taken out of the monument. Other parts were never in.

Leases Number: UTU 078147  
Acres: 600.87  
Owner: Citation Oil and Gas Corp  
Note: This has been removed from the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 0019378  
Acres: 1,920.07  
Owner: Citation Oil and Gas Corp  
Note: This has mostly been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 0019377  
Acres: 2,378.60  
Owner: Citation Oil and Gas Corp  
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 0128442  
Acres: 1,262.60  
Owner: Citation Oil and Gas Corp  
Note: This has mostly been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 0128443  
Acres: 471.71  
Owner: Citation Oil and Gas Corp  
Note: Part of this has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 023905  
Acres: 79.88  
Owner: Al T. Hays  
Note: This has been taken out of the monument. It abuts Capital Reef National Park.
Lease Number: UTU 046640  
Acres: 3,920.00  
Owner: David L. Fahrny  
Note: This has been taken out of the monument. It abuts Capital Reef National Park.

Leases Number: UTU 025855  
Acres: 1,040.00  
Owner: William C. Kirkwood  
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 027491  
Acres: 240.00  
Owner: William C. Kirkwood  
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 037991  
Acres: 400.00  
Owner: McMoran O&G Co [74 percent] and Britoil Ventures Inc [25 percent]  
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 027023  
Acres: 960.00  
Owner: Raymond Chorney Estate  
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 038508  
Acres: 80.00  
Owner: Dorothy and W. J. Langley  
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 021673  
Acres: 2,237.00  
Owner: William C Kirkwood  
Note: This has been mostly taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 021672  
Acres: 1,280.00  
Owner: Raymond M Joeckel  
Note: This has been partly taken out of the monument. Part of it remains in the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 028169  
Acres: 400.00  
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: This is still in the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 037312
Acres: 1,120.00
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: This is still in the monument. A small portion of it has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 039190
Acres: 480.00
Owner: Viola J. Kirkwood
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 037314
Acres: 1,910.28
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note:

Lease Number: UTU 037315
Acres: 2,241.36
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: This has been taken out of the monument. Texoil Intl. Corp has "operating rights."

Lease Number: UTU 037316
Acres: 1,915.00
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 043694
Acres: 1,280.00
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: This is still in the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 029297
Acres: 678.00
Owner: Raymond N. Joeckel
Note: This is still in the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 037317
Acres: 2,560.00
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: This has been partially taken out of the monument. Part of it remains in the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 037318
Acres: 2,560.00
Owner: Viola J. Kirkwood
Note: This is still in the monument partially. Part has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 045421
Acres: 520.00
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 021675
Acres: 2,276.28
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: The majority of this has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 046643
Acres: 1,755.75
Owner: Basix AZ Energy Corp
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 022123
Acres: 1,836.50
Owner: Raymond N. Joeckel
Note: This has been cut out of the monument. It abuts Capital Reef National Park.

Lease Number: UTU 022122
Acres: 2,358.48
Owner: Raymond N. Joeckel
Note: This has been cut out of the monument. It abuts Capital Reef National Park.

Lease Number: UTU 028919
Acres: 40.00
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: This has been taken out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 032264
Acres: 1,107.00
Owner: William C. Kirkwood
Note: This has been cut out of the monument.

Lease Number: UTU 025857
Acres: 320.00
Owner: Drukman Properties LLC [45.42 percent] and Bernice J. Bradshaw Charitable Trust [54.58 percent]
Note: This has been cut out of the monument. It is near Capital Reef National Park.
Lease Number: UTU 008454
Acres: 1,280.00
Owner: Kerr McGee O&G Onshore LP
Note: This has been carved out of the monument. It abuts Capital Reef National Park.

Lease Number: UTU 009407
Acres: 2,545.00
Owner: Viking Exploration Inc
Note: This was partly in the monument and partly out of the monument before. It is now entirely cut out of the monument. It abuts Capital Reef National Park.

Lease Number: UTU 008455
Acres: 480.00
Owner: Kerr McGee O&G Onshore LP
Note: This has been taken out of the monument. It abuts Capital Reef National Park.

McMoran Oil & Gas Co. owns 75 percent of one of the leases that was carved out of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. McMoran Oil & Gas is the subsidiary of a subsidiary of Freeport McMoran Inc. When he ran for Governor of Louisiana in 2015, Secretary Zinke’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle received financial support from a super PAC which took $1.25 million from the CEO of another Freeport McMoran Inc. subsidiary.

McMoran Oil & Gas owns 75 percent of a lease that was taken out of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. It is 400 acres and its lease number is UTU 037991. Britoil Ventures Inc. owns the remaining 25 percent of this lease. [Utah Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, and Utah’s SITLA]

McMoran Oil & Gas Co. is a subsidiary of McMoRan Exploration Co, which in turn is a subsidiary of Freeport McMoran Inc. ["Company Overview of McMoRan Oil & Gas LLC," Bloomberg, accessed 12/21/17; "Company Overview of McMoRan Exploration Co.," Bloomberg, accessed 12/21/17]

In 2015, when he ran for Governor of Louisiana, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle received support from a super PAC called Louisiana Rising, which took $1.25 million from James Flores. Flores was the CEO and President of Freeport McMoran Oil & Gas LLC, a subsidiary of Freeport McMoRan Inc., at the time. ["Scott Angelle," Department of Influence, accessed 12/20/17; "James C. Flores," Bloomberg, accessed 12/21/17]

Kerr McGee Oil & Gas Onshore LP, a subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, has two leases in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument that are now outside the new borders of the monument. Amanda Kaster-Averill, one of Secretary Zinke’s advisers, used to work on a project whose membership list included Anadarko executives. Tara Sweeney,
Secretary Zinke's Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, was previously Executive Vice President of External Affairs for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, which has "leased millions of acres of land" to oil companies including Anadarko.

Kerr-McGee Oil & Gas Onshore LP has two oil and gas leases that have been cut out of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. One is lease number UTU 008454 and it's 1,280 acres; the other is lease number UTU 008455 and is 480 acres. Both leases abut Capital Reef National Park. [Utah Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, and Utah's SITLA]

Kerr-Mcgee Oil & Gas Onshore LP operates as a subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. ["Company Overview of Kerr-Mcgee Oil & Gas Onshore LP," Bloomberg, accessed 12/20/17]

Amanda Kaster-Averill, who is serving as an advisor to Secretary Zinke, worked on the energy team of the Bipartisan Policy Center from 2013 to 2014. BPC's energy project's membership list includes "CEOs and executives" from Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. ["Amanda Kaster-Averill," Department of Influence, accessed 12/20/17]

Tara Sweeney, Secretary Zinke's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, was previously Executive Vice President of External Affairs for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation [ASRC]. ASRC is an Alaskan oil and coal organization that has already leased millions of acres of land to Anadarko, Chevron Texaco, and BP for oil drilling, including all of their land within ANWR. ["Tara Sweeney," Department of Influence, 12/20/17]

The reduction of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument cut a closed potash lease from the monument. The lease, which has been closed since 1985, belongs to Chevron, which contributed $525,000 to Donald Trump's inauguration, as well as to Ryan Zinke's campaigns.

An LR2000 search for potash leases in Kane and Garfield Counties yields one result. Chevron has one 80-acre potash located at 0410S 0040E 026. This lease's case has been closed since 1985. [Potash lease serial number UTU--- 037861, BLM LR2000 database, accessed 11/30/17]

The Public Land Survey System [PLSS] location 0410S 0040E 026 is within the boundaries of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and appears to be a part of the acreage cut from the monument under Donald Trump's reduction. [Township and Range Search for Google Maps, accessed 11/30/17; "Trump monument proclamations on Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in Utah," Obtained by Politico Pro, 11/30/17]
The map on the left shows the centroid for the PLSS location 0410S 0040E 026, where Chevron's potash lease is. The map on the right shows Donald Trump's proposed reduction of GSENM.

Chevron contributed $525,000 to Donald Trump's inaugural, as well as $6,377 to his presidential campaign. [Timothy Cama, "Energy companies donated millions to Trump's inauguration," The Hill, 04/19/17; "Chevron," OpenSecrets.org, accessed 11/30/17]

Ryan Zinke met with Chevron leadership on March 21, 2017. [Secretarial Schedule for March 2017, DOI.gov, accessed 12/01/17]

Chevron contributed $12,000 to Scott Angelle, Secretary Zinke's Director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, when he ran for the Louisiana Public Service Commission and Congress. ["Chevron," Department of Influence, accessed 11/30/17]

A 40-acre quarter section of land that Mike Noel owns through Noel Properties LLC, an entity that he does not disclose on his conflict of interest report, was an inholding in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. It appears to have been specifically carved out of the monument by the reduction order. Before the reduction order was issued Noel met with Secretary Ryan Zinke to discuss new boundaries for the monument.

Utah Representative Mike Noel failed to disclose that he had "hundreds of acres of farmland near the monument and the parcel within, all owned by a company he didn't list by its registered name on conflict forms." One 40-acre parcel of Noel's "appears to have been carefully cut out of the monument under the reduction order signed by President Donald Trump on Dec. 4 2017 at Zinke's recommendation." Mike Noel met with Secretary Zinke earlier in 2017 when Kane County leaders presented Interior with proposals for redrawn boundaries for Grand Staircase. [Jayson O'Neill, "Report: Utah Rep. Noel to benefit personally and professionally from new reduced Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument boundary," Western Values Project, 02/12/18; Taylor Anderson, "Rep. Mike Noel's company owned land inside Grand Staircase-Escalante while he fought against the monument," Salt Lake Tribune,
The red dot indicates the centroid of Kane County parcel 3-4.5-18-1, which is a 40-acre quarter-quarter section of agricultural land. It is owned by Noel Properties LLC.

[Source: Kane County]

Left: Existing GSENM boundary with Noel’s undisclosed land in white. [Source: BLM]
Right: New GSENM boundary drawn to exclude Noel’s land from monument. [Source: DOI]

The Interior Department, in August 2018, released a proposal “to dispose of federal land in Utah that was protected within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument until its boundary was redrawn by the Interior Department” in direct contradiction to what Ryan “Zinke said at his Senate confirmation hearing: ‘I am absolutely against transfer or sale of public land.’” Some of the proposed land “is adjacent to the property of Mike Noel, an avid supporter of President Trump who advocated for the scaling back of Grand Staircase.”

The Interior Department, in August 2018, released a proposal “to dispose of federal land in Utah that was protected within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument until its
boundary was redrawn by the Interior Department...despite Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s assurance...[in 2017] that he would not sell public lands. The proposal to possibly sell 1,600 acres” directly contradicted “what Zinke said at his Senate confirmation hearing: ‘I am absolutely against transfer or sale of public land.’”

“Some land marked for potential disposal is adjacent to the property of Mike Noel, an avid supporter of President Trump who advocated for the scaling back of Grand Staircase.” [Darryl Fears and Dino Grandoni, “Zinke said he would never sell public land. But the Interior is considering it.,”Washington Post, 09/16/18]

“Following 48 hours of blistering public outrage, the Trump administration...scrapped” the “proposal to pawn off more than 1,600 federal acres that until recently were protected as part of Utah’s Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.”

“The Center for Western Priorities called...[the] reversal a ‘monumental land sell-off flip-flop’ and questioned whether Zinke has any idea what’s happening at his own agency. ‘He was caught red-handed trying to sell off our public lands to his political supporters,’ Jennifer Rokala, the nonprofit’s executive director, said in an email. ‘It’s only after two days of terrible news stories that he is now changing direction.’” [Chris D’Angelo, “Trump Administration Scraps Plan To Sell Land Cut From Utah Monument,” Huffington Post, 08/17/18]

**Shrinking Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument likely violates the Antiquities Act.**

"Representatives from the Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, the Navajo Nation and the Ute Indian tribes...filed suit against President Donald Trump and a host of administration officials...alleging that Trump's decision to significantly shrink Bears Ears National Monument" based on work by Ryan Zinke "is 'in violation of the United States Constitution and the Antiquities Act of 1906,'" while "a group of environmental and conservation organizations sued Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for dramatically shrinking Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument." [Dan Merica, "Native American tribes, conservation groups sue Trump over monument changes," CNN, 12/05/17]

Just days before Secretary Ryan Zinke sent his report in support of reducing the size of many national monuments to the White House, Heath Heikkila, a lobbyist for the American Forest Resource Council [AFRC], a timber industry trade association, emailed Interior Principal Deputy Solicitor Daniel Jorjani documents that AFRC "thought...might be helpful as the Department finalizes the Secretary's Antiquities Act report." The documents Heikkila sent argued that President Obama's expansion of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument had been illegal. AFRC vocally opposed this monument expansion and is currently suing the Interior Department over the expansion. Just three days after Heikkila emailed Jorjani, Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended that President Trump reduce the size of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.
The American Forest Resource Council [AFRC], a timber industry trade association, "is based in Portland, Oregon and advocates for active, sustained yield management of public forestlands in five Western states." In March 2017, AFRC sued the Interior Department over President Obama's expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The case is ongoing. [SOL-2019-00010 Responsive Docs 1_redacted, 09/14/17; Brandi Buchman, "Timber Industry Says Cascade-Siskiyou Protections Threaten Loggers," Courthouse News Service, 03/14/17; American Forest Resource Council v. United States of America et. al., Case No 1:17-cv-00441-RJL]

On August 21, 2017, just three days before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke sent his national monuments report to the White House, American Forest Resources Council's Director of Government Affairs Heath Heikkila emailed Interior Principal Deputy Solicitor Daniel Jorjani documents that AFRC "thought... might be helpful as the Department finalizes the Secretary's Antiquities Act report." Heikkila appears to be on a first name basis with Jorjani, simply calling him "Dan" in his initial email. [SOL-2019-00010, Responsive Docs 1_redacted, 08/21/17; Juliet Eilperin and Darryl Fears, "Interior secretary recommends Trump alter at least three national monuments, including Bears Ears," Washington Post, 08/24/17]

Heath Heikkila attached two documents in his email to Daniel Jorjani. One was "a 1940 Solicitor's Opinion... that the President does not have the authority to designate O&C lands as a national monument since Congress reserved them for permanent timber production." The second was a letter from AFRC that pointed "to a more recent law, from 1990, that reaffirmed that the O&C lands have been reserved by Congress for permanent timber production." [SOL-2019-00010, Responsive Docs 1_redacted, 08/21/17]

The letter, from AFRC President Travis Joseph, aimed to "bring" to Secretary Zinke's attention, as he continued his "review of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument under Executive Order 13792," "a 1990 law reaffirming that the O&C lands have been reserved by Congress for timber production." AFRC argued that, "in conformity with the principle of sustained yield," O&C lands are precluded from being "included... in any National Monument. The Antiquities Act permits the President to 'reserve parcels of land as a part of the national monuments.' O&C lands do not fall within this authority because they have already been reserved." [SOL-2019-00010, Responsive Docs 1_redacted, 08/21/17]

On August 24, 2017, shortly after receiving these documents from AFRC, "Southern Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument" was one of the national monuments that Interior Secretary Zinke recommended that President Trump reduce. [Juliet Eilperin and Darryl Fears, "Interior secretary recommends Trump alter at least three national monuments, including Bears Ears," Washington Post, 08/24/17; Andrew Theen, "Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument would shrink under Trump administration plan," Oregon Live, 08/24/17]

As of March 2018, the Trump administration had yet to take any official action on Secretary Zinke's recommendation to reduce Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. [Kurtis Alexander, "Along California-Oregon border, debate over protected lands is clash of values," San Francisco Chronicle, 03/03/18]
Secretary Zinke's Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt's former co-worker and fellow lobbyist at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP represented an electric wholesale and coal mining company that opposed the popular Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument in northern New Mexico. With little explanation or detail, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke included the monument on his list of monuments to be shrunk or amended.

Michael F. Feeley, in 2010, was named the department co-chair of BHFS's government relation's group. In that role, he "provide[d] representation before the legislative and executive branches" for Tri-State Generation and Power and other clients. [Press Release, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, 02/22/10]

Michael F. Feeley still works for BHFS, where he is a state lobbyist and "power player for the firm." Feeley says BHFS's "connection to politics is second nature" because it has "'government relations in its DNA.'" [Mark Matthews, "Colorado Lobbying Firm Brings Clout to DC," Denver Post, 4/9/16]

The Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association has also employed BHFS to lobby in Colorado. [Search for Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Colorado Secretary of State, accessed 9/25/17]

A leaked document shows that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended management changes to Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument. Though the document does not have specifics, it recommends the monument be changed to prioritize "infrastructure upgrades." [Juliet Eilperin, "Shrink at least 4 national monuments and modify a half-dozen others, Zinke tells Trump," Washington Post, 09/17/17]

The Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, in March 2013, was concerned that Rio Grande del Norte National Monument could "raise questions for a transmission line" it was planning on building from San Luis Valley into New Mexico. [Matt Hildner, "Monument could Threaten Transmission Line, " The Pueblo Chieftain, 03/24/13]

The Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association "pulled the plug" on its controversial power line from San Luis Valley into New Mexico in March 2015, citing "the potential delay and added cost of getting permitting for the sections of line that would have had to cut across through the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument." [Max Hildner, "Tri-State: No Power Line to NM," The Pueblo Chieftain, 03/28/15]

When Tri-State Generation cancelled its power line, the company blamed President Obama's establishment of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, "which for all practical purposes eliminated the feasibility of any route..." ["Written Statements and Comments of Joel Bladow on Behalf of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.," FERC Docket No. AD15-4-00, accessed 09/18/17]
Questa Mayor Esther Garcia, a proponent of Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, said she opposed Tri-State's plan to build a power transmission line that could pass through the monument. [Andy Stiny, "Eagles, The Gorge, and the Rio Grande," Albuquerque Journal, 02/28/14]

Taos Council member Andrew Gonzales said the power would be "an eyesore" and anticipated "huge resistance' to the proposal from governing bodies and the general public." [Deborah Baker, "Power Line may go through New Monument," Albuquerque Journal, 05/26/13]

At a recent sportsmen rally in Taos, speakers speculated that because of Zinke's recommendation, "Tri-State Generation and Transmission would be encouraged to build a 230 KV transmission line" through Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, which would result in "disturbing management of the fishing and migration patterns of wildlife." [Bill Whaley, "New Mexican's Earth First," Taos Friction Blog, 09/24/17]

"The creation of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument was promoted by a broad coalition of local communities and stakeholders, including chambers of commerce, dozens of local businesses, Taos Pueblo, hunting and angler organizations and environment advocates... The New Mexico Oil and Gas Association has no specific criticism of the Rio Grande del Norte designation and neither does a statewide ranchers group, the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association." [T.S. Last, "A 'Geographic Dilemma," Albuquerque Journal, 07/01/17]

[05:05] Karen Cowan of the New Mexico Cattlegrowers Association said of Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, "we had one or two members who called and expressed concerns, but by in large, it appears that the community came together and did what they wanted to do... our members who drive our policy seem to be satisfied." [New Mexico In Focus Episode 1101, KNME-TV, 07/10/17]

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument [OMDPNM] is popular and supported by a variety of local governments, businesses, conservationists, and sportsmen groups, yet Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended changes to OMDPNM. Zinke made this recommendation after ignoring broad support and skipping a scheduled meeting with local stakeholders in the nearby town of Las Cruces, NM. Zinke may have recommended changes to the monument due to the influence of long-time lobbyist Todd Willens, who at the time was a newly-appointed assistant deputy at Interior. Willens previously worked as chief of staff to Rep. Steve Pearce, who opposed OMDPNM.

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument was supported by resolutions from the Doña Ana County Commission, the City of Las Cruces, the Town of Mesilla, and the City of Anthony. It is also supported by Senators Mark Udall and Martin Heinrich, as well as Reps. Ben Ray Luján and Michelle Lujan Grisham. ["Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument," The New Mexico Wildlife Federation, accessed 10/5/17; Press Release, Tom Udall, 06/20/17]
A leaked document shows that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended management changes to Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument. Though the document does not have specifics, it recommends the monument be changed to prioritize "infrastructure upgrades." [Juliet Eilperin, "Shrink at least 4 national monuments and modify a half-dozen others, Zinke tells Trump," Washington Post, 09/17/17]

When Zinke visited OMDPNM in August 2017, he skipped a town hall event that drew 600 people in Las Cruces. Mesilla Mayor Nora Barraza criticized Zinke's absence, saying Zinke "chose not to hear those voices" of local people who supported the monument designation. [Walter Rubel, "Las Cruces-area leaders decry Zinke summary, await word on Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks," Las Cruces Sun-News, 08/28/17]

In January 2017, while Todd Willens was still his chief of staff, Rep. Steve Pearce [R-NM] "asked Trump to review the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument..." [Laura Paskus, "Pearce Returns to House Committee," Las Cruces Sun-News, 01/23/17]

Todd Willens was named assistant deputy secretary at the Department of Interior in July 2017. In that role, he works "closely with Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt." [Former Pearce staffer named assistant deputy at Interior," Shreveport Times, 07/12/17]

Sen. Tom Udall said he was "worried" that Rep. Pearce "has the ear" of the White House on the issue of OMDPNM because Willens, "just took over as the deputy assistant secretary at Interior this month, and you can bet Zinke is seeking his input on the New Mexico monuments. Pearce himself was one of Trump's biggest backers in the 2016 campaign, and Trump remembers stuff like that." [Michael Coleman, "Zinke's decision on monuments coming soon," Albuquerque Journal, 07/23/17]

Rep. Pearce introduced legislation to try to prevent designation of OMDPNM by creating a dramatically smaller version of the monument in 2014. [Lauren Villagran, "Organ Monument plan meeting draws crowd," Albuquerque Journal, 01/25/14]

In July 2017, Secretary Ryan Zinke travelled to Nevada as part of his national monuments review. The original schedule for his trip had stakeholder meetings scheduled for Sunday, July 30, 2017, and a monument tour scheduled for Monday, July 31, 2017. However, after President Trump requested that Secretary Zinke attend a "Salute American Heroes Event" and a Make America Great Again campaign rally with him on July 25, 2017, Interior staff "reconfigure[d]" Secretary Zinke's schedule so that the monument tour was slated for Sunday the 30th and the roundtables were slated for Monday the 31st. After already changing his schedule once to accommodate going to a political event for President Trump, at the last minute Secretary Zinke had to cut his Nevada tour short so he "could return to Washington, D.C., for a cabinet meeting with then-newly appointed White House Chief of Staff John Kelly." He canceled his stakeholder meetings that would have taken place on Monday July 31, 2017, but he was still able to find time on July 30, 2017, for a "private hike" at "Gold Butte with BLM officials and Republican politicians."
As part of his 2017 national monuments review, Secretary Ryan Zinke travelled to Nevada to "hear opposing views on two Nevada national monuments." [Henry Brean, "Ryan Zinke expected in Nevada on Monday for monument review," Las Vegas Review Journal, 07/26/17]

Secretary Zinke's scheduler, Caroline Boulton, on July 19, 2017, sent an email to other Interior staff with a version of Secretary Zinke's travel schedule that had "7/30 Charter flight to Las Vegas, NV from Santa Fe, Roundtable meetings around Moapa Valley & Mesquite, NV," and "7/31 Monument Tour with SLM Red eye flight to DC." [OS-17-00938ca, 07/19/17]

However, after learning that Secretary Zinke was "needed in Ohio for an event with POTUS on Tuesday the 25th," Interior staff "spent the day trying to reconfigure our travel." The July 25th Youngstown events that Secretary Zinke attended with President Trump were a "Salute to American Heros Event" and a "Make America Great Again Rally," which was a campaign rally for President Trump. After learning about Secretary Zinke's needing to attend the Ohio event, Caroline Boulton emailed Rudy Evenson, the Nevada Bureau of Land Management [BLM] official Zinke's office was coordinating with, and said she was "so sorry... to shift the itinerary again" but asked "Do you think we could make a Sunday work for the tour?" [OS-17-00938ca, 07/21/17; Ryan Zinke July 2017 Calendar, Department of Interior, accessed 03/05/18; Dan Merica, "Trump makes 'presidential' pitch at Ohio rally," CNN, 07/26/17]

On July 20, 2017, Rudy Evenson sent an email to various BLM staff as well as Caroline Boulton, informing them that the monument tour had been rescheduled to take place on Sunday, July 30, 2017 and the roundtable meetings had been rescheduled to take place on Monday, July 31, 2017. [OS-17-00938ca, 07/20/17]

"The Interior Secretary had originally planned to spend a few days in Las Vegas in late July," "to tour the monuments and meet with stakeholders." However, he "cut the visit to one day and canceled most meetings... so he could return to Washington, D.C., for a cabinet meeting with then-newly appointed White House Chief of Staff John Kelly." [Heidi Keyser, "Voices of the Land," KNPR, 08/28/17]

The change in schedule upset environmental groups, tribal leaders, and other "monument advocates," especially because, even though Secretary Zinke cancelled the stakeholder meetings, on Sunday, July 30, 2017, he was able to find "time to fit in" a "private hike" at "Gold Butte with BLM officials and Republican politicians." One of the "Republican politicians" who went on the hike with Secretary Zinke was Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt, who has since announced he is running for Governor of Nevada. Media were not allowed on this monument tour. [Heidi Keyser, "Monuments In Limbo As Zinke Cuts Visit Short," KNPR, 08/01/17; Andrew Davey, "BROKEN PROMISES: NEVADANS CONDEMN RYAN ZINKE SHUTTING THEM OUT OF MONUMENTS REVIEW," Nevada Forward [Blog], 08/01/17; Secretary Ryan Zinke Travel Manifest, Department of Interior, accessed 03/05/18; Jackie Valley, "National monument supporters blast Zinke for cutting short Nevada trip, call his visit a political stunt," Nevada
Independent, 07/31/17; Colton Lochhead, "Laxalt makes Nevada governor bid official," Las Vegas-Review Journal, 11/01/17; OS-17-00938ca, 07/20/17

Secretary Ryan Zinke did not meet with either the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians or the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe on his Nevada trip. Because of the change in Secretary Zinke's schedule, Interior canceled an in-person meeting that he was supposed to have with the Moapa Band of Paiutes. Instead he called the tribe from Washington, DC, which, according to Tribal Chairman Darren Daboda, made the tribe feel like their "input was an afterthought." The Las Vegas Band of Paiutes also requested a meeting with Secretary Zinke on his monuments tour. However, Secretary Zinke's staff only considered meeting with them as a backup if Secretary Zinke "already had to wait" for an extra day in Las Vegas.

Gold Butte National Monument is "sacred" to the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe as well as to the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians. ["Gold Butte National Monument," Friends of Nevada Wilderness, accessed 03/05/18]

On Monday July 31, 2017, instead of the originally scheduled in person meeting with the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Secretary Zinke had a thirty minute conference call with the tribe. Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Chairman Darren Daboda said of the call, scheduled as a replacement to going in-person to the Moapa Band Reservation, "We felt like our input was an afterthought." [Heidi Keyser, "Voices of the Land," KNPR, 08/28/17; Ryan Zinke July 2017 Calendar, Department of Interior, accessed 03/05/18]

As of June 27, 2017, "The Las Vegas Band of Paiutes [had] invited Zinke to visit Gold Butte" but had not heard back from the Interior Department. [Suzanne Potter, "Interior Secretary Announces July Visit to Nevada National Monuments," Public News Service, 06/27/17]

Caroline Boulton, Secretary Zinke's scheduler, appeared to consider having Secretary Zinke meet with the Las Vegas Band of Paiutes as a back-up plan, and only if Secretary Zinke "already had to wait" for an extra day in Las Vegas. She wrote in an email to Interior advance staffer Rusty Roddy, "Maybe if flight doesn’t work we do dinner Monday? Or maybe there’s another person we could meet for dinner in Las Vegas if we already have to wait. There's also the Las Vegas Band of Paiutes that we’re currently not meeting with but could in the PM." [OS-17-00938ca, 07/28/17]

Seemingly frustrated, Roddy responded to Boulton, perhaps about Zinke's not meeting with the Las Vegas Band of Paiutes. Roddy wrote, "Chances are strong that the Paiutes are attending Moapa tribal meeting. What is holding us up on making a call??" [OS-17-00938ca, 07/28/17]

Ultimately, Secretary Zinke did not meet with the Las Vegas Band of Paiutes on his trip to Nevada. [Ryan Zinke July 2017 Calendar, Department of Interior, accessed 03/05/18]

Even though Secretary Ryan Zinke did not have time to meet in person with the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians or to meet with the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe at all, he did have time to go on a
hike to the Falling Man petroglyphs, which was one of his "preferences" of activities to do on the trip. He also found time to have dinner at a Las Vegas steakhouse with Senator Dean Heller, who is a Gold Butte monument opponent.

On his July 30, 2017 hike it appears that Secretary Ryan Zinke specifically requested to go on a two hour long hike to the Falling Man petroglyphs. In a July 20, 2017 email Caroline Boulton, Secretary Zinke's scheduler, wrote in an email to Rudy Evenson, the Nevada BLM official Zinke's office was coordinating with, "We were just talking to Downey about the Secretary's preferences for the trip, and we were wondering if we might be able to extend the trip for an extra hour to re-include the hike to Falling Man petroglyphs." Evenson replied that "adding Falling Man back in" to the schedule "Basically... adds about 2 hours including the 30-minute lunch break." [OS-17-00938ca, 07/20/17]

Secretary Zinke also found time on the evening of Sunday, July 30 to go to Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar with Senator Dean Heller. Senator Heller's staff chose this location because it had "a lot" of privacy. Senator Heller has been a vocal opponent of national monument designation for Gold Butte. [FOIA Response OS-17-00938, Page 21; Secretary Ryan Zinke Travel Manifest, Department of Interior, accessed 03/05/18; Henry Brean, "Sen. Dean Heller urges Obama against last-minute monument designation for Gold Butte," Las Vegas Review Journal, 11/18/16]

Before the stakeholder meetings were cancelled, Interior staff were trying to keep them under wraps. Interior Deputy Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs Micah Chambers asked congressional staff who he invited to the stakeholder meetings to "keep a close hold" on the details of the meetings.

On July 26, 2017, Micah Chambers, when he invited Nevada's congressional offices to "stakeholder meetings with the Secretary," told congressional staff that none of the meetings were "publicly announced yet, so please keep a close hold." The meetings were scheduled to take place just five days in the future, on July 31, 2017. [OS-17-00938ca, 07/26/17]

When Ryan Zinke cut short "what was to have been a two-day visit to tour the Gold Butte and Basin and Range monuments" as part of his national monument review, stakeholders felt "chafed by the last-minute cancellation of promised meetings," including local Paiute tribes and Rep. Dina Titus. Even Cliven Bundy's wife complained that she felt "forgotten" and "not important" after she was unable to get a meeting with Secretary Zinke during the monument review.

When Ryan Zinke cut short "what was to have been a two-day visit to tour the Gold Butte and Basin and Range monuments, part of his" national monument review, stakeholders felt "chafed by the last-minute cancellation of promised meetings," including local Paiute tribes and Rep. Dina Titus. [Keith Rogers, "Stakeholders Fume over Zinke's Shortened Nevada Monuments Visit," Las Vegas Review-Journal, 7/31/17]
After being unable to get a meeting with Zinke while he was reviewing Gold Butte monument, the wife of Cliven Bundy produced a video saying she felt "forgotten" and "not important" during the monument review. ["Carol Bundy Responds to Visit of Interior Secretary Zinke," YouTube, 6/30/17]

A column in a Denver newspaper described Secretary Zinke's monument review as a "casual and half-assed process" and his monument listening tour as a "road show." The columnist criticized Secretary Zinke for only visiting "eight of the 27 targeted monuments" and then going "on a Mediterranean vacation with his wife" before the review deadline had passed.

In an August 2017 article, Westword newspaper columnist Alan Prendergast criticized Zinke's national monument review. Prendergast observed, "The creation of a national monument is a serious business, involving years of study, lobbying, paperwork and speechifying. Undoing one is apparently a much more casual and half-assed process, judging by the way the Trump administration is going about it." He continued, "Although the legality of actually de-listing a national monument has yet to be tested in court, Zinke's road show has been heavily promoted as delivering on a pledge to correct the public-land 'abuses' of the Clinton and Obama eras — while instilling widespread anxiety among environmentalists, sport enthusiasts and recreationalists, and other monument defenders." He concluded, "with just a week left until the date Zinke [was] supposed to conclude his review, he ha[d] only visited eight of the 27 targeted monuments. And he [wasn't] likely to meet with stakeholders for the others before the announced deadline" as Zinke was "on a Mediterranean vacation with his wife, Lola." [Alan Prendergast, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Takes a Break From Monumental Task," Westword, 08/18/17]

Secretary Zinke was heavily criticized for canceling meetings inviting local input on the monument review. A columnist for the New Mexico Taos News pointed out the irony of the Trump administration canceling "advisory meetings in New Mexico and across the country," a forum that was one "of the few institutionalized ways of gauging public opinions about public lands" while the administration undertook the national monument review.

Cody Hooks, writing for the New Mexico Taos News, in May 2017 observed, "While the Trump administration makes moves to scrutinize and potentially scale down or undo some national monuments, the top brass at the U.S. Department of the Interior has canceled upcoming advisory meetings in New Mexico and across the country that are some of the few institutionalized ways of gauging public opinions about public lands. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signaled recently that the department, which includes the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service, would be reviewing the mission and function of more than 200 boards and committees." [Cody Hooks, "Feds call off public meetings amid review," Taos News, 05/21/17]

Although Interior was ultimately unable to obtain charter flights for Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel on the July 2017 monuments trip, it appears Interior staff initially tried to use charter planes so that Secretary Zinke could get back to Washington, DC, more quickly so that he
could spend "3 full days in his office" before he departed on "Personal Travel." Staff expressed concern that if Secretary Zinke were to fly commercial, he would "likely need to stay" in Nevada longer than desired. In an email to other Interior staff Caroline Boulton clarified that it was "DEFINITE" that Secretary Zinke would be in "DC" for those three days and that his personal "travel will not be pushed back...for anything." Secretary Zinke and his wife spent at least part of his personal travel that August on a luxurious vacation in the Mediterranean.

Interior Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Downey Magallanes, on July 19, 2017, emailed Caroline Boulton and Russell Roddy, and CC'ed Leila Getto, Micah Chambers and Timothy Williams, saying, "After discussing with boss July 24 Boy Scouts POTUS event, potential D.C. mayor tour, please reach out July 25 Ohio POTUS event July 26, depart to arrive in El Paso that evening July 27-29 New Mexico July 30-31 Nevada Want to get him back so he has 3 full days in office August 1-3 before he departs August 4." [OS-17-00938ca, 07/19/17]

Caroline Boulton responded to Magallanes' initial email, "After initial scouring of flights, we will likely to charter a plane to get him in and out of Nevada that quickly." [OS-17-00938ca, 07/19/17]

Caroline Boulton emailed to Interior staffer Tim Nigborowicz, "We should discuss to Las Vegas. If we fly commercial, we will likely need to stay through 8/1 out there." [OS-17-00938ca, 07/19/17]

Later in the day on July 19, 2017, Boulton sent an email to Interior staff titled "MORE Scheduling Changes." That email included an agenda that had Secretary Zinke on a charter flight from Santa Fe to Las Vegas on July 30, 2017, and said "8/1-8/4 DC [DEFINITE; the travel will not be pushed back anymore for anything] 8/4 Depart on Personal Travel." [OS-17-00938ca, 07/19/17]

At least part of Secretary Zinke's personal travel that he took in August 2017 included a Mediterranean vacation with his wife. [Aaron Weiss, "Secretary Zinke goes on Mediterranean vacation with only one week left to decide the fate of more than a dozen monuments he's never visited," Center for Western Priorities, 08/17/17]

Although "Interior staff attempted to charter two legs of Zinke's trip, one leg from Las Cruces, New Mexico, to Santa Fe, and a second from Santa Fe to Las Vegas, as part of his tour of federal lands in the West," "due to the active fires," "Interior was "having trouble getting two pilots for the charter flights in Nevada and New Mexico." "Not able to find a pilot, Zinke both flew commercial and drove." [OS-17-00938ca, 07/19/17]; Cristina Alesci, Sara Ganim, Rene Marsh, and Gregory Wallace, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's NRA visit among several trips being questioned," CNN, 02/27/18]

The Washington Post editorial board called Secretary Ryan Zinke's national monument review an "ominous" sign that the Trump administration wants to shrink protected areas.
The Washington Post said Zinke's review is an "ominous sign" that the Trump administration wants to shrink protected areas. The board also praised the Antiquities Act: "There is much good in the Antiquities Act track record, because presidents, in their broad view of the national interest, have generally used their powers judiciously. Moreover, Congress has not been absent from this process. Very often it has ratified presidential actions, and at times it has checked the president’s use of the act, an interaction that restrains presidential abuse. Mr. Trump should keep this broad national interest, and long view, in mind." [Editorial Board, "Editorial: Trump Should not Undo the Protection of Precious Public Land," Washington Post, 04/30/17]

The Albuquerque Journal editorial board said Secretary Zinke's national monument review could result in "a real and tragic 'land grab.'"

The Albuquerque Journal said the review could result in "a real and tragic 'land grab.'" [Editorial Board, "Editorial: Trump monument review could be the real land grab," Albuquerque Journal, 05/01/17]

The Los Angeles Times editorial board called Secretary Zinke's national monument review an "assault on our shared national heritage."

The Los Angeles Times called the monument review an "assault on our shared national heritage" and said that it is necessary "to fight to ensure that neither the Trump administration nor the fossil fuel-friendly congressional leadership succeeds." [Editorial Board, "Editorial: Leave the National Monuments Alone," Los Angeles Times, 04/27/17]

Patagonia's President and CEO Rose Marcario called Secretary Zinke's national monument review "'an assault on America's most treasured lands and oceans.'" Marcario said that "'Bears Ears and other national monuments'" are "'a critical part of our national heritage and have exceptional ecological characteristics worth protecting for future generations.'"

In April 2017, Rose Marcario, president and CEO of the outdoor outfitter Patagonia, said that Trump's national monument review was "'an assault on America's most treasured lands and oceans.'" She continued, "'Bears Ears and other national monuments were designated after significant community input because they are a critical part of our national heritage and have exceptional ecological characteristics worth protecting for future generations,' Marcario said. 'It's extremely disturbing to see the Trump administration apparently laying the groundwork to remove protections on our public lands.'" [Dan Merica and Kevin Liptak, "'Trump order could roll back public lands protections from 3 presidents," CNN, 04/25/17]

The editorial board of The Daily Herald, based in Everett, WA, criticized "the short time period" Secretary Zinke allowed for public comment on the monuments. The board noted that the Department of the Interior was "by Zinke's own assessment...currently understaffed," making it more difficult for the Department to "gather comment to complete its assessments."
The *Daily Herald*, in a May 2017 editorial, criticized the short time period Zinke was allowing for public comment. Their editorial board observed, "The public has 60 days following formal publication of the notice this Friday to comment on each of the national monument designations. Utah's Bears Ears National Monument, created by President Obama last year, is the exception; the comment period is limited to 15 days. 'Local input,' however, appears not so critical [to Zinke] that it requires more than 60 days — and only 15 for Bears Ears — for the Department of Interior, which by Zinke's own assessment is currently understaffed, to gather comment to complete its assessments. If no outcome is predetermined, why the rush?" [Editorial Board, "Editorial: Speak up for Hanford Reach, other monuments," *Daily Herald*, 05/11/17]

**Business owners criticized Secretary Zinke's national monument review, saying it would harm their livelihoods and local economies.**

Rick LeVasseur, owner of 5 Lakes Lodge in Maine, wrote an op-ed saying calls for removing monument status for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument were based on "ridiculous" claims. LeVasseur said the monument is a "huge economic and cultural asset." [Rick LeVasseur, "Zinke needs to know this when he visits Maine's monument," *Bangor Daily News*, 06/12/17]

Suzanne Catlett, the board president of the Escalante and Boulder Chamber of Commerce, wrote an op-ed urging Zinke to "leave Grand Staircase and Bears Ears as they are" because the monuments helped the tourism industry in the area "grow" and "thrive." Catlett wrote that the review would not be effective if it didn't fairly examine the monuments' success. [Suzanne Catlett, "Leave Grand Escalante and Bears Ears as they are," *Deseret News*, 05/04/17]

**A group of local "business, community, and political leaders" in Maine voiced "their opposition to efforts to overturn the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument," which was "included on a list of 27 national monuments that would be reviewed by the Trump Administration." The President of the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce said she was '"outraged'" that the monument review was creating a "'cloud of uncertainty over our National Monument, potentially chasing away investments.'" Another local business owner said of the review that the "'Trump Administration's actions will hurt the economy of our region'" and that the administration "'should stop this effort to roll back the Monument and let us move forward.'"

In May 2017, a group of "Maine business, community, and political leaders" voiced "their opposition to efforts to overturn the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument," which was "included on a list of 27 national monuments that would be reviewed by the Trump Administration."

Gail Fanjoy, President of the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, said, "'We are outraged that the Trump Administration is creating this cloud of uncertainty over our National
Monument, potentially chasing away investments. Since the designation of the Monument, we have observed real economic benefits in our communities as people come to visit our area for the first time. Businesses are expanding, new investments are being made, real estate prices are starting to rise, and visitors are filling up restaurants and beds. There is new hope and energy in a region desperate for both." She concluded that Maine Governor Paul LePage and "the Trump Administration should stop this misguided effort."

Jon Ellis, co-owner of Ellis's Market in Patten and East Millinocket, said: "I voted for Gov. LePage and previously opposed the Monument, but now I support it and am greatly frustrated at these efforts to overturn it. To my knowledge, Gov. LePage has never even set foot in Patten and yet he insults our region by calling it a 'mosquito area.' The Monument has brought new energy to our towns and helped unify the region. I am optimistic that Monument supporters and supporters of the timber industry can work hand-in-hand for a better future. We are poised to invest more than a million dollars in our stores. The designation of the Monument was a contributing factor in our decision to make this investment. And now we face new uncertainty. Gov. LePage's and the Trump Administration's actions will hurt the economy of our region. They should stop this effort to roll back the Monument and let us move forward."

Deb Neuman, President and CEO of the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce, "released a letter from the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce stating 'the Board of Directors of the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce opposes efforts to overturn the proclamation that established the national monument as that would undermine the expectations that have become settled in the region.'" [Press Release, Natural Resources Defense Council of Maine, 05/12/17]

The Native American Rights Fund criticized Secretary Zinke's monument review, calling it a "cynical effort to distract Indian country from the devastating blow of reducing the size of the monument."

Natalie Landreth of the Native American Rights Fund criticized Zinke's monument review, saying the Bears Ears monument was supported by five area tribes. She explained, "It's unclear exactly what the secretary is suggesting, so until we know more details about what he's talking about, it's difficult to have a view on it... Our initial reaction on behalf of the three tribes we represent is that this was really a cynical effort to distract Indian country from the devastating blow of reducing the size of the monument."

Landreth, who represents the Hopi, Zuni, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes, said Zinke "had not been in touch" with the tribes. She said, "We don't know who he's talking to and what they may have said." [Rob Capriccioso, "Zinke Says Tribes are 'Happy' to Have Bears Ears Medications; Tribes Disagree," Indian Country Today," 06/13/17]

A Native American advocate in Nevada criticized Ryan Zinke for not giving Bears Ears supporters "enough time...to lay out their concerns." She called Secretary Zinke's
recommendation regarding Bears Ears "gross negligence against the indigenous peoples of the land."

Loni Romo, a Native American advocate, wrote, in an op-ed, that the review of Bears Ears National Monument "did not give the [Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition] enough time to be hoard to lay out their concerns" and that Zinke's recommendation regarding Bears Ears was a "gross negligence against the indigenous peoples of the land. She also wrote that Zinke's Bears Ears recommendation left out tribal groups because "there is no organized way for tribes to influence decisions as sovereign nations when land decisions like this go before Congress." [Loni Romo, "Op-ed: Indigenous people shut out of national monument decision," Reno Gazette-Journal, 07/05/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke mischaracterized tribal support for the Bears Ears National Monument reduction, saying the tribes were "very happy" with his recommendations. Sen. Orrin Hatch, while touring Utah with Secretary Zinke, even said, ""The Indians, they don't fully understand" what a national monument would do.

In a press call about his recommendations for Bears Ears National Monument, Zinke said, "'I think, talking to tribes, they're very happy...' adding that he 'talked to all parties, and they're pretty happy and willing to work with us.'" In response, Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch said Navajo leaders had "'maintained a consistent position that they support the monument designation. If there is any happiness... it's probably that the monument remains intact as of now.'" [Rob Capriccioso, "Zinke Says Tribes are 'Happy' to Have Bears Ears Medications; Tribes Disagree," Indian Country Today," 06/13/17]

At a press conference with Ryan Zinke, Senator Orrin Hatch said, "'The Indians, they don't fully understand that a lot of the things that they currently take for granted on those lands, they won't be able to do if it's made clearly into a monument or a wilderness.'" Hatch "declined to name specific activities that aren't allowed within the monument." [Timothy Cama, "Zinke Kicks off Utah Tour in National Monuments Review," The Hill, 05/08/17]

Monte Mills, who teaches American Indian law at the University of Montana, said that given the short time period of Secretary Zinke's review, the review would "'seem somewhat arbitrary no matter what.'"

In June 2017, Monte Mills, "an assistant professor of American Indian law at the University of Montana," said of Zinke's monument review of the Bears Ears National Monument that, "'The effort that went into the original proclamation and the development of those boundaries are going to be pretty hard to overcome. [...] Given the fact that [the review] is going to be done in 45 days makes it seem somewhat arbitrary no matter what.'" [Jake Bullinger, "Will Bears Ears Remain a National Monument?" The Atlantic, 06/09/17]

In an op-ed by the group's co-chairs, the Conservation for Economic Growth Coalition criticized Secretary Zinke's interim report on shrinking Bears Ears National Monument. They
wrote, Secretary "Zinke's recommendation that the President reduce the size of Bears Ears seems to largely ignore the care that went into the designation of the monument, calling into question whether he is truly listening to tribal leaders, or if he fully understands the implications to tribes of chopping up the monument."

Leaders of the Conservation for Economic Growth Coalition, a group that describes itself as "entrepreneurs making the case for conservation," wrote an op-ed in the Elko Daily Free Press in June 2017, titled "National monuments review must be full and fair." In their op-ed, they criticized Zinke's interim report on shrinking the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument: "Zinke's recommendation that the President reduce the size of Bears Ears seems to largely ignore the care that went into the designation of the monument, calling into question whether he is truly listening to tribal leaders, or if he fully understands the implications to tribes of chopping up the monument." [Nancy Pfund and Tom Baruch, "Commentary: National monuments review must be full and fair," Elko Daily Free Press, 06/22/17]

The Las Cruces Sun-News editorial board openly questioned "both the wisdom and legality of this ongoing effort to undo the actions of previous presidents." In a separate editorial, the Las Cruces Sun-News said it was "concerned by the lack of specific criteria" used in Secretary Zinke's review process.

In June 2017, the "mayors of Las Cruces, Mesilla and Anthony all came together [...] to reiterate their support for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument." The Las Cruces Sun-News, in an editorial, wrote that they "continue[d] to question both the wisdom and legality of this ongoing effort to undo the actions of previous presidents, [and] [they] also hope[d] that the current review is being conducted honestly. If that is indeed the case, then a strong show of local support for the monument should make a difference to decision-makers in Washington." They continued that they had "no doubt that mayors Ken Miyagishima of Las Cruces, Nora Barraza of Mesilla and Diana Murillo-Trujillo of Anthony are speaking for the majority of their constituents when they express their support for the monument." [Editorial Board, "Join mayors in support of monument," Las Cruces Sun-News, 06/19/17]

The Las Cruces Sun-News, in a July 27, 2017 editorial, wrote that they were "concerned by the lack of specific criteria" used in Zinke's review process. They also wrote that reducing the Organ Mountains-Deserts Peaks National Monument "would clearly go against the will of the majority of residents," and said Zinke "needs to understand that" those opposing national monuments "are not the majority." [Editorial Board, "Zinke must respect locals on monument," Las Cruces Sun-News, 07/27/17]

A San Francisco Chronicle reporter noted that the methodology used by Secretary Zinke for his national monument review was "murky."

In August 2017, San Francisco Chronicle reporter Carolyn Lochhead observed, "The methodology Zinke is using for his monuments review remains murky." [Carolyn Lochhead, "State monuments' protection at risk; 5 sites in Trump review await decision on status from
interior secretary; Trump review puts 5 California monuments at risk," San Francisco Chronicle, 08/20/17]

John Todd of the Montana Wildlife Association said, "Montanans are proud of the monuments we have here, but why isn't Secretary Zinke?"

KULR-NBC [Billings, MT] aired a segment on the national monument review featuring John Todd of the Montana Wildlife Association. He said, "In fact, a Colorado College poll that just came out said that 77 percent of Montanans approve of the designations that we have in this state so the question is, you know, Montanans are proud of the monuments we have here, but why isn't Secretary Zinke?" ["Wake Up Montana," KULR-NBC, 04/27/17 [0:15]]

Secretary Ryan Zinke, in 2017, supported Donald Trump's Interior Department budget proposal, which requested a "$143 million cut to park operations" and "would slash national park facilities and maintenance spending by $92 million." These cuts would also result in significant layoffs of "middle management staff" who "provide important guidance and expertise on things like maintenance projects to the 59 national parks around the U.S."

Ryan Zinke "defended" Donald Trump's FY2018 Interior Department budget proposal. In a Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing in June, Zinke said "'this is what a balanced budget looks like.'" [Darryl Fears, "Zinke defends huge job cuts at Interior: 'This is what a balanced budget looks like,'" Washington Post, 06/21/17]

"Trump's budget request calls for a cut to the National Park Service, overseen by the Department of Interior, of almost $300 million for the 2018 fiscal year, about half of which would be money for park operations." [Anshu Siripurapu, "Zinke wants more 'front line' help in parks, but can't give details," McClatchy, 06/27/17]

The Trump/Zinke budget "requests $193 million for the central offices, which means more than half the staff would have to be eliminated to make up for the $143 million cut to park operations." [Anshu Siripurapu, "Zinke wants more 'front line' help in parks, but can't give details," McClatchy, 06/27/17]

Ryan Zinke has said "'We're looking at a plan to push resources from middle management headquarters back to where they belong and are most effective to the front line.'" [Anshu Siripurapu, "Zinke wants more 'front line' help in parks, but can't give details," McClatchy, 06/27/17]

Critics have said that "the parks are already understaffed and that further layoffs could lead to reduced hour at visitor centers, longer lines at entrance stations, and elimination of family-friendly programs like campfire talks and nature walks," and also that the "middle management that Zinke wants to thin out provide important guidance and expertise on things like maintenance projects to the 59 national parks around the U.S." [Anshu Siripurapu, "Zinke wants more 'front line' help in parks, but can't give details," McClatchy, 06/27/17]
"The Trump/Zinke budget would slash national park facilities and maintenance spending by $92 million." [Aaron Weiss, "The real Ryan Zinke just stood up," Center for Western Priorities, 06/22/17]

Ryan Zinke has "proposed cutting his own maintenance budget by more than [$70 million] which would result in even more deferred maintenance in our national parks." [Aaron Weiss, "The real Ryan Zinke just stood up," Center for Western Priorities, 06/22/17]

"Since 1965, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect civil war battlefield sites, national parks and local recreation areas," but President Trump proposed "at least a 70 percent cut in the Land and Water Conservation Fund over current spending levels, already reduced by congressional sequestration." Secretary Ryan Zinke supported these cuts.

"Since 1965, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect civil war battlefield sites, national parks and local recreation areas." On March 16, 2017, "President Trump proposed a $120 million cut to the LWCF and other federal land acquisition programs, calling them 'lower priority activities.' That reduction was part of a 12 percent proposed cut to the Department of Interior." According to former Interior Department official Matt Lee-Ashley, "the $120 million figure represents at least a 70 percent cut in the Land and Water Conservation Fund over current spending levels, already reduced by congressional sequestration." Ryan Zinke suggested "he was comfortable with the proposed cuts." [McClatchy, "Trump proposes deep cuts to financing of parks and recreation nationwide," Washington Bureau, 03/16/17]

*Sage-Grouse Overhaul*

On June 8, 2017, Secretary Ryan Zinke established "an internal review team" to "evaluate both Federal sage-grouse plans and state plans and programs." The sage grouse review team was instructed to "examine the plans in light of" the energy dominance priorities of Trump's Interior Department. On August 7, 2017, Secretary Zinke published a report authored by the sage grouse review team that recommended modifying "the boundaries of sagebrush focal areas [SFAs], which have been identified as the bird's most critical habitat and necessary to its survival," and "modifying or issuing 'new policy on fluid mineral leasing and development' within sage grouse habitat." The Interior Department, in October 2017, announced it would be scrapping the Obama administration plan to protect ten million acres of sage grouse land from mining, and would instead be opening those acres up for energy development.

The Obama administration's 2015 sage grouse management plan "set new management standards for federally owned land in the bird's 11-state range and sought to coordinate with states on other policies. It was seen at the time as a way to avoid listing the sage grouse as threatened or endangered, a more blunt instrument that would have been far more restrictive." [Timothy Cama, "Trump administration to overhaul sage grouse conservation strategy," The Hill, 08/07/17]
On June 8, 2017, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3353, which "established an internal review team" to "evaluate both Federal sage-grouse plans and state plans and programs to ensure they are complementary." The sage grouse review team was instructed to "examine the plans in light of policies set forth in Secretarial Order 3349, American Energy Independence," and as such, the sage grouse review team was to consider adjusting or rescinding "plan provisions... based on the potential for energy and other development on public lands." [Press Release, Department of the Interior, 06/08/17]

On August 7, 2017, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly released a 53-page report... from an internal review committee and ordered his department to implement numerous recommendations from the report." The memo "recommend[ed] possibly removing or modifying the boundaries of so-called sagebrush focal areas [SFAs], which have been identified as the bird's most critical habitat and necessary to its survival." It also suggested "BLM will explore making grouse population numbers, which are notoriously cyclical, the deciding factor over grouse health, as opposed to the federal plans that focus on protecting and restoring grouse habitat."

Other major recommendations in the report were: "modifying or issuing 'new policy on fluid mineral leasing and development' within sage grouse habitat," "working with states with grouse habitat 'to improve techniques and methods to allow the States to set appropriate population objectives' for compliance with federal plans," "investigating 'the removal or modification' of SFAs 'in certain states,'" "possibly removing 'hard triggers' in the management plans that call for action to be taken when certain conditions exist that demonstrate 'catastrophic population or habitat losses,'" and "potentially increasing livestock grazing in grouse habitat by focusing on reducing 'improper grazing.'"

With Secretary Zinke issuing his memo, the Trump administration is attempting "to provide states more flexibility in how they deal with the imperiled bird." "Some of the short-term recommendations could be addressed by a BLM instruction memorandum, or IM, while longer-term changes... would require a land-use plan amendment that could take years to complete." [Timothy Cama, "Trump administration to overhaul sage grouse conservation strategy," The Hill, 08/07/17; Scott Streater, "Zinke review team calls for big changes to Obama-era plans," E&E News, 08/07/17]

In October 2017, Michael Nedd issued the notice of intent announcing that the Bureau of Land Management would "review land use provisions in the federal sage grouse conservation plan." The sage grouse conservation plans had been created by states and limited "new development on some of the sage grouse's range in 10 western states and define[d] ways to expand its habitat there." [Dino Grandoni, "Interior Department to reexamine contentious plan to protect sage grouse," Washington Post, 10/07/17; Devin Henry, "Trump administration to reconsider sage grouse conservation plans," The Hill, 10/05/17; "Notice of Intent to Amend Land Use Plans Regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Prepare Associated Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments," Bureau of Land Management, 10/05/17]
In October 2017, Secretary Zinke’s Acting BLM Director Michael Nedd also issued BLM’s notice of intent to withdraw "protections for 10 million acres of federal lands used by the threatened sage grouse to open it up for energy development," reversing an Obama administration effort to block mining in certain areas to protect sage grouse. Nedd called the Obama administration’s effort to close off ten million acres from mining "a complete overreach' by the federal government." [Matthew Daly, "Feds remove protections for 10M acres of sage grouse habitat," Associated Press, 10/05/17; "PUBLIC LANDS: Groups push BLM not to revive mining in renewable energy zone," E&E News, 10/06/17; Devin Henry, "Trump administration to reconsider sage grouse conservation plans," The Hill, 10/05/17; "Notice of Cancellation of Withdrawal Application and Withdrawal Proposal and Notice of Termination of Environmental Impact Statement for the Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming," Bureau of Land Management, 10/05/17]

Conservationists "slammed" the BLM’s October 2017 decision to "revisit the strategy," and claimed that doing so was "pandering to a few large energy interests and anti-public lands advocates." [Devin Henry, "Trump administration to reconsider sage grouse conservation plans," The Hill, 10/05/17]

In July 2017, Samantha McDonald, the Director of Government Relations for the Independent Petroleum Association of America [IPAA], reached out to Timothy Williams and Casey Hammond, who are members of Interior’s sage grouse review team. She asked them to talk with IPAA Treasurer Diemer True, who wanted "to see a reference to the merits" of the captive raising of sage grouse in the final report. True spoke with both Williams and Hammond. The August 2017 sage grouse review team memo concluded that while "further work" was "needed to evaluate captive breeding of sage-grouse," it "recommend[ed] that new captive breeding efforts continue to be investigated to improve effectiveness." Captive breeding of sage grouse has been described as "discredited" and "ill-advised." It is "expensive, technically demanding and capable of producing very few chicks."

The June 8, 2017 Interior Department press release announcing the sage grouse review announced that the review team would "consider creative approaches and ideas, including a captive breeding program, setting population targets by state, and opportunities to improve state involvement." [Press Release, Department of Interior, 06/08/17]

Diemer True is the Independent Petroleum Association of America Treasurer, and a Managing Member of Diamond Wings Upland Game Birds LLC, a company that raises and sells upland game birds. ["Diemer True," IPAA, accessed 01/23/18; OS-2017-01063ca, 07/19/17]

On July 14, 2017, Samantha McDonald, the Director of Government Relations for the Independent Petroleum Association of America, emailed Timothy Williams and Casey Hammond, both members of the sage grouse review team. McDonald wrote nearly identical emails to Hammond and Williams, in which she said "I wanted to touch base with you in your capacity on the sage grouse review team. One of my members, Diemer True [based in Wyoming] is actively involved with the captive raising of sage grouse and he would like to see a
reference to the merits of the program in the final report. Would you have some time to speak with Diemer [cc'd]? He may even come to D.C. for the meeting if you feel that is best or maybe you two could coordinate the next time you are out west." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/14/17]

Casey Hammond responded saying he would be "Happy to talk" and asked to set up a call. Timothy Williams responded saying he "would like to speak with" Diemer True, and said he could "meet him either in DC or at our next meeting" which he believed would be "out west." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/14/17]

According to Casey Hammond's calendar, he had a call on "Greater Sage-grouse" with Diemer True and Samantha McDonald on July 19, 2017 from 3:00pm to 3:30pm. [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/19/17]

On July 19, 2017, Diemer True emailed Casey Hammond, saying "Thank you for talking with me. Here is a brief summary of the Wyoming initiative to attempt to raise a captive breeding program for Greater Sage-grouse." In the document True sent, he included two "requests to the Department of the Interior." They were that the "Interior department endorse Wyoming's efforts to establish a captive breeding population of Greater Sage-grouse in its upcoming review," and also that Interior "Offer financial support to certified Game Bird Farms in Wyoming in their efforts to establish a captive breeding population of Greater Sage-grouse." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/19/17]

Diemer True also emailed the same talking points to Interior's Counselor for Energy Policy Vincent DeVito on July 21, 2017. [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/21/17]

Interior's August 2017 sage grouse memo concluded that "further work" was "needed to evaluate captive breeding of sage-grouse and recommended efforts continue to be investigated to improve effectiveness." The sage grouse review team, in their memo, said that they "recommend[ed] that new captive breeding efforts continue to be investigated to improve effectiveness." [Jamila Blake, "Review team submits sage-grouse management recommendations," Wildlife Society, 08/09/17; DOI Sage Grouse Review, 08/04/17, page 13]

Captive breeding of sage grouse has been described as "ill-advised," as it is "expensive, technically demanding and capable of producing very few chicks." Environmental groups have described captive breeding as "'discredited.'" [Jacques Leslie, "The Trump administration vs. the sage grouse — one more way to undermine the Endangered Species Act," Los Angeles Times, 08/03/17]

In July 2017, IPAA Director of Government Relations Samantha McDonald also emailed Timothy Williams, requesting "one more call" with Williams in his "sage grouse review capacity," on behalf of Chesapeake, Conoco Phillips, EOG Resources and WEA. McDonald said they had "a pretty specific sage grouse issue they'd like to have addressed in the final report" related to the "sage grouse map issue." The report issued by the Interior Department in August 2017 "committed to developing a process to incorporate revised habitat maps." In
one of many examples of the Interior Department under Secretary Zinke regularly acting on specific trade group requests, Williams told McDonald that the Department of the Interior was "working on it" and that he "let the Secretary know as well."

Samantha McDonald, on July 18, 2017, emailed Timothy Williams, requesting "one more call" with Williams in his "sage grouse review capacity." McDonald was requesting the call because "three companies [Chesapeake, Conoco Phillips and EOG Resources and the fellow trade association Western Energy Alliance]" wanted to "chat" with Williams about "a pretty specific sage grouse issue they'd like to have addressed in the final report." McDonald continued, "While the companies can provide more background in addition to what I have pasted below, essentially we need the Department to issue guidance to BLM concerning an expedited approach to accept Version 4 Core Area Maps within their planning purposes. To ignore the problem could potential jeopardize several dozen projects in Wyoming. Thanks for your consideration of this request." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/18/17]

Timothy Williams, on Thursday, July 27, 2017, had a call with Samantha McDonald of IPAA, and representatives from at least "some of" the following associations-- Chesapeake, Conoco Phillips, EOG Resources, and Western Energy Alliance, on "a sage grouse map issue." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/27/17]

On August 17, 2017, at 4:02PM, Samantha McDonald sent Timothy Williams a follow up email on her previous map request. She wrote, "Has BLM been able to resolve this map discrepancy in Wyoming yet? I appreciate any update you may have." On August 17, 2017, at 4:12PM, just ten minutes later, Williams responded, "We are working on it. I have let the Secretary know as well." McDonald responded "Great! Thank you!" [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/17/17]

On July 19, 2017, Tripp Parks, WEA's Manager of Government Affairs, emailed the sage grouse review team a letter "regarding the economic impacts of the Greater Sage-Grouse land use plans." The letter has been described as "an industry wish list," and the sage grouse review team granted 13 of WEA's 15 requests.

On July 19, 2017, Tripp Parks, Manager of Government Affairs for the Western Energy Alliance, emailed Interior's sage grouse review team, Timothy Williams, Vincent DeVito, Casey Hammond, Kathy Benedetto, Katharine MacGregor, Daniel Jorjani, and Scott Cameron, a letter "regarding the economic impacts of the Greater Sage-Grouse land use plans." Parks wrote in the body of the email that WEA "appreciate[d] your review" of the Sage-Grouse land use plans. [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/19/17]

As previous analysis by Western Values Project has shown, this letter from WEA was "nothing short of an industry wish list, with 15 recommendations for the sage-grouse review team... 13 of those requests were granted by Secretary Zinke's handpicked sage-grouse review team." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/19/17; Jayson O'Neill, "Western Values Project opens investigation in response to leaked document revealing industry influence of Interior's sage-grouse review," Western Values Project, 08/21/17]
Sage grouse review team member and Deputy Director of External Affairs Timothy Williams attended the Montana Petroleum Association's [MPA] annual meeting in Billings, Montana on August 30, 2017, in which he was instructed to discuss "sage grouse issues." MPA provided Williams with a complimentary registration to the meeting and a barbeque, and also invited Interior staff to golf and fishing tournaments they were hosting as part of the meeting.

On June 29, 2017, Executive Director of the Montana Petroleum Association Alan Olson invited Interior’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Aurelia Skipwith, to participate at MPA's "annual meeting in Billings, Montana on Wednesday, August 30th to discuss federal issues that affect our industry, primarily sage grouse for this particular discussion."

Alan Olson sent Aurelia Skipwith "a complimentary registration" to MPA's Barbeque and Annual meeting. Olson also told Skipwith that MPA would be hosting a golf tournament and a fishing tournament if she was interested in either.

Aurelia Skipwith did not attend, but she emailed Olson with Timothy Williams' contact info, saying that "Timothy Williams, our Deputy Director for External/ Intergovernmental Affairs, is able to attend and he’s CC’ed." She explained to Williams that MPA "mentioned that it would be nice to hear about how things are going with land and minerals as well as sage grouse issues." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/01/17]

Methane Waste

Ryan Zinke, in 2017, said he had "concerns about the current rules regarding venting and flaring on federal lands," and that he would "commit to a review of the oil and natural gas leasing program in order to evaluate whether any further regulation is appropriate."

Zinke claimed he had "concerns" regarding the rules regulating flaring on federal lands. In answering a question on updating the 30-year old BLM rules on flaring, Zinke said he had not been briefed and would "review them" and "make a determination on whether those rules need to be updated." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Questionnaire, Ryan Zinke, 01/17/17]

When pressed further for an answer on the flaring rule, Zinke said, "I am committed to ensuring that the American taxpayers get a fair return on all natural resource development on federal lands. While I have concerns about the current rules regarding venting and flaring on federal lands, I will commit to a review of the oil and natural gas leasing program in order to evaluate whether any further regulation is appropriate." [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Questionnaire, Ryan Zinke, 01/17/17]

The American Petroleum Institute [API] is in close contact with and meets frequently with top Department of Interior officials. Since June 2017, API officials have met or had
correspondence with Interior Counselor for Energy Policy Vincent DeVito, Interior Associate Deputy Secretary James Cason, and Interior Deputy Director for the Office of External Affairs Timothy Williams. In particular, Vincent DeVito appears to have met frequently with API. On July 25, 2017, API officials requested a meeting with Vincent DeVito and other high level political appointees at the Department of the Interior to discuss API's concerns about BLM's venting and flaring rule, which API believed, "exceeded BLM's authority." API met with these top Interior officials, and after the meeting, API's Carrie Domnitch emailed Vincent DeVito, thanking him for the "good discussion" and saying that API would "follow-up with...BLM staff on next steps." On October 4, 2017, BLM announced a proposal to delay certain requirements contained in the venting and flaring rule until January 17, 2019, as they had "found that some parts of the 2016 final rule appear to be unnecessarily burdensome on industry."

Interior Counselor for Energy Policy Vincent DeVito met with Richard Ranger, Matt Haynie, and Carrie Domnitch of API on June 7, 2017, from 12:30pm to 1:00pm. [OS-2017-01063ca, 06/07/17]

On June 15, 2017, Holly Hopkins, Senior Policy Advisor, Upstream and Industry Operations at American Petroleum Institute, emailed Interior Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason an email titled "quick chat." She wrote, "Hi Jim, hope all is well. Could you please give me a call when you get a chance, I have a quick question. I'm in my office 202-682-8439 until 3:00, then on my cell [redacted]." [OS-2017-01063ca, 06/15/17]

Interior Deputy Director for the Office of External Affairs Timothy Williams met with the Colorado Petroleum Council, which is a division of the American Petroleum Institute, on June 20, 2017, from 11:00am to 12:00pm. [OS-2017-01063ca, 06/20/17]

Interior Counselor for Energy Policy Vincent DeVito met with Andy Radford from API on June 20, 2017 from 1:00pm to 1:30pm. [OS-2017-01063ca, 06/20/17]

Interior Counselor for Energy Policy Vincent DeVito met with Carrie Domnitch, Matt Haynie, and Holly Hopkins from API on June 27, 2017 from 11:00am to 11:30am. [OS-2017-01063ca, 06/27/17]

On July 24, 2017, Richard Ranger of API emailed Vincent DeVito and CC'ed Michael Nedd. The subject of the email was "API Letter Responding to S.O.3354 and BLM Future Planning Efforts and Project/Environmental Reviews." The letter expressed API's "support for the objectives of Secretarial Order 3354, dated July 7, 2017," and was API's response to "the invitation from the BLM to the public to provide input into the agency's land use planning and National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] processes." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/24/17]

On September 27, 2017, Vincent DeVito emailed Holly Hopkins an email titled "Message." DeVito wrote, "I returned your call. Your message was delayed in getting to me. Returning from Grand Forks this evening." [OS-2017-01063ca, 09/27/17]

On September 13, 2017, Vincent DeVito wrote in an email that he was "happy" to brief the American Petroleum Institute's "Subcommittee on Exploration and Production Law," a group made up of API's "member companies' Assistant General Counsels and others focused on exploration and production law." According to the invitation, the group was "very interested in hearing from" DeVito "about the major DOI issues, and [to] discuss how industry can be most helpful to the Department and how you all achieve your goals." DeVito appears to have briefed the group in mid-October 2017. [OS-2017-01063ca, 09/13/17]

On July 25, 2017, API Director of Federal Relations Carrie Domnitch emailed Counselor for Energy Policy Vincent DeVito, Acting Assistant Secretary- Land and Minerals Management Katharine MacGregor, and Senior Advisor to the Bureau of Land Management Kathleen Benedetto, requesting a meeting "on venting and flaring." Domnitch wrote, "As part of Secretary Zinke's Secretarial Order 3349, 'Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth,' the Department was instructed to review the BLM final rule titled, 'Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation.' In API's letter in response to the Order, we reiterated our concerns that the final rule exceeded BLM's authority under the Mineral Leasing Act [MLA] and that the prevention of waste and conservation of resources can be accomplished using BLM's proper authority under the MLA. As such, API is requesting a meeting to discuss these issues further. Included in the meeting from API will be Upstream Group Director Erik Milito, Upstream Senior Policy Advisor Richard Ranger, Senior Counsel Matt Haynie and myself." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/25/17]


After the July 31 meeting, Carrie Domnitch emailed Vincent DeVito saying, "Vincent, Thanks again for meeting with us earlier this week on BLM issues. That was a good discussion and we'll follow-up with Kathy and BLM staff on next steps." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/04/17]

On October 4, 2017, the Bureau of Land Management "announced in the Federal Register a proposal to temporarily suspend or delay certain requirements contained in the 2016 final Waste Prevention Rule [also known as the Venting and Flaring Rule] until January 17, 2019." In their press release announcing the delay, BLM said they "found that some parts of the 2016 final rule appear to be unnecessarily burdensome on industry," and "determined that a temporary suspension or delay of certain requirements would avoid compliance costs on operators for requirements that may be rescinded or significantly revised in the near future." [OS-2017-01063ca, 10/04/17]
Oil and Gas

Ryan Zinke said “to the oil and gas industry: ‘Our government should work for you.’”

According to a news story with the headline, “Ryan Zinke to the oil and gas industry: ‘Our government should work for you,’” in September 2018 Zinke said in “the keynote address at the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association’s fall meeting” that “‘our government should work for you,’ according to organizers.”

“Zinke has said pretty much the same thing before. In March [2018], he told an energy industry conference: ‘Interior should not be in the business of being an adversary. We should be in the business of being a partner.’” [Umair Irfan, “Ryan Zinke to the oil and gas industry: ‘Our government should work for you,’” Vox, 09/22/18]

After contacting high-level Interior officials about wanting to move forward on drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska [NPR-A], ConocoPhillips was able to persuade the Bureau of Land Management to release "a draft environmental impact statement [EIS] that analyzes an application for oil and gas development of the Greater Mooses Tooth 2 [GMT2] production pad" in the NPR-A. In the timeframe that ConocoPhillips was pushing to drill in the NPR-A, ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance invited Ryan Zinke and his wife to a dinner at Charlie Palmer, a Washington DC steakhouse, with ConocoPhillips SVP Andrew Lundquist, as well as a Ford Theatre Reception at the U.S. Capitol.

On February 13, 2017, "BLM-Alaska leadership and project staff" met "with ConocoPhillips to update them on permitting for the Greater Mooses Tooth 2 [GMT2], a Federal Oil & Gas Greater unit project within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska." [17-00434cb, Department of the Interior, Page 429]

On March 22, 2018, the Bureau of Land Management announced they were "releasing a draft environmental impact statement [EIS] that analyzes an application for oil and gas development of the Greater Mooses Tooth 2 [GMT2] production pad in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska [NPR-A]," after the original "Application for Permit to Drill was submitted by ConocoPhillips, Alaska, Inc. in August 2015." [Press Release, Bureau of Land Management, 03/22/18]
Before BLM issued this decision, on May 8, 2017, ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance invited Secretary Zinke and his wife to a dinner on June 3, 2017 at Charlie Palmer Steak, a Washington DC steakhouse, with ConocoPhillips SVP Andrew Lundquist, as well as the "Ford Theatre’s Reception scheduled for 8:00 PM at the U.S. Capitol." Lance had previously tried to sit down with Zinke during the 2017 Offshore Technology Conference in May. [17-007-07cd, 05/08/17]

Secretary Zinke appears not to have attended this event as, according to his travel schedule, he was in Santa Barbara, California on personal travel on June 3, 2017. [17-00658ch, Department of the Interior]

However, Secretary Zinke did participate in a roundtable discussion with ConocoPhillips and other oil companies on May 1, 2017, and also met with John Faraci, the Director of ConocoPhillips, on September 26, 2017. [17-00658ch, Department of the Interior; Secretary Ryan Zinke September 2017 Calendar, Department of the Interior]

On August 4, 2017, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management issued an environmental impact statement that concluded that "seismic surveys for oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico would cause significant harm to marine mammals." The same day Carrie Domnitch from API emailed Vincent DeVito to tell him API did not believe the conclusion reached in the environmental impact statement was "the right choice." API asked for a meeting "before the Record of Decision" was issued. DeVito said he "look[ed] forward to further discussion," and API met with DeVito and BOEM Special Assistant James Schindler on August 18, 2017.

On August 4, 2017, API lobbyist Carrie Domnitch emailed Vincent DeVito regarding the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management's issuing of a "Programmatic EIS today on Gulf of Mexico seismic." The environmental impact statement BOEM issued on August 4 "conclude[d] seismic surveys for oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico would cause significant harm to marine mammals." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/04/17; Press Release, Center for Biological Diversity, 08/04/17]

Carrie Domnitch wrote to Vincent DeVito that API did "not believe Alternative C was the right choice based on the historical record and based on our track record on seismic, we believe Alternative A would have provided as much protection to marine life without being overly burdensome on industry operations. This will be reflected in our public statement. We would like to discuss with you further in the coming weeks before the Record of Decision [ROD] is issued. Let us know your availability."

Vincent DeVito responded: "I look forward to further discussion. I am adding Gisella to coordinate my end. Thanks, again." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/04/17]

Vincent DeVito and BOEM Special Assistant James Schindler met with Matt Haynie, Andy Radford, and Carrie Domnitch from API on August 18, 2017 from 11:00am to 11:30am. [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/18/17]
In July 2017, Alan Olson, Executive Director of the Montana Petroleum Association [MPA], contacted Amanda Kaster, an Advisor to Secretary Ryan Zinke, telling her about a problem one of his member companies was having reinstating four oil and gas leases in North Dakota. Olson asked Kaster if she could connect his member with "someone at Interior who could possibly help him out." Kaster arranged a phone call between Olson and the Acting Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals. Olson and Kaster spoke again a couple weeks later. On September 26, 2017, BLM issued a notice in the Federal Register saying that three of the four leases in question had been reinstated.

On July 18, 2017, Alan Olson, the Executive Director of the Montana Petroleum Association, emailed Amanda Kaster, who is an advisor to the Secretary of the Interior. Olson wrote, "I have a request from one of our members who is having an issue getting a BLM oil and gas lease reinstated needing to connect with someone at Interior who could possibly help him out. This is a really good oil and gas operator, not a fly by night type so that is why I'm asking. Let me know if you can point me in the right direction." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/18/17]

The member who Alan Olson was helping was Jeff Herman, a Region Manager at Petro-Hunt, LLC in Bismarck, North Dakota. Herman's company had taken leases over from Emerald Oil, which had gone into bankruptcy. Herman explained to Olson, "Due to their mismanagement the leases lapsed and we took all the necessary steps with the BLM Dickenson and Billings offices to get them reinstated so all that is left is to get the notice in the Federal Register but can't seem to get them in there. Is there anything your office could do to get them in the Federal Register quicker so the 30 days period gets started? There are wells shut-in waiting for the reinstatement for us to put them back on production again." The lease numbers were NDM 94704, NDM 94705, NDM 94706, and NDM 94112. [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/24/17]

Amanda Kaster responded by asking Alan Olson if he was "free around 5pm/EST on Thursday, July 27 to do a call with our Acting Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals about this?" [OS-2017-001063 [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/25/17]

On August 8, 2017, Jeff Herman forwarded to Alan Olson an email he had received from the regional BLM office saying that the reinstatements were "still pending in the Washington DC office." Herman was told that, because of the process, it would "still be awhile" before the local BLM could take action. Herman told Olson "FYI – still not movement." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/08/17]

Alan Olson then forwarded Herman's email to Amanda Kaster, and said "I am hoping you could get this information to someone that can 'make things happen'." Kaster said to Olson, "let's chat tomorrow if you're available." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/08/17]

On September 26, 2017, BLM announced in the Federal Register that it was proposing to reinstate three of the four leases. [Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Leases NDM 94704, NDM 94705, and NDM 94706, North Dakota, Federal Register, 09/26/17]
In August 2016, the Western Energy Alliance [WEA], which is an oil and gas trade association, sued the Obama administration for "failing to hold quarterly oil and gas lease sales." Interior officials in the Trump administration met with WEA in late 2017 to "discuss possible settlement conditions." On January 31, 2018, BLM issued an Instruction Memorandum [IM] directing "its field offices 'to simplify and streamline the leasing process.'" Among other provisions, the IM eliminated Master Leasing Plans and shortened the protest period for finalized leases. The day after BLM issued this IM, WEA dropped two of their three counts in the complaint against the Department of the Interior.

On August 11, 2016, the Western Energy Alliance [WEA] sued Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the Bureau of Land Management "for failing to hold quarterly oil and gas lease sales, as required by the Mineral Leasing Act." [Ellen M. Gilmer, "Industry lawsuit targets 'keep it in the ground'," E&E News, 08/11/16; Western Energy Alliance v. Jewell et. al., Case No. 1:16-cv-00912-WJ-KBM]

On January 24, 2017, then-Acting Interior Secretary Kevin "Jack" Haugrud forwarded Daniel Jorjani an email titled "Re: Western Energy Alliance v. Jewell, 1:16-cv-00912-WJ-KBM [D.N.M.]." Haugrud wrote, "Here's the item we briefly discussed, Dan, for which we need to develop a position [please see email string below]." Jorjani responded that the email was "much appreciated." The original email has been completely redated. [17-00434cc, Department of the Interior, Page 1264]

On February 14, 2017, Kathleen Benedetto emailed James Cason, informing him that "BLM & Solicitor's Office, had a preliminary discussion on possible settlement conditions with the Western Energy Alliance [WEA] who is suing the BLM for not following [in their mind] the Mineral Leasing Act requirements for the oil and gas leasing program." Benedetto reported that WEA wanted to meet with Interior to "discuss settlement options." [17-00434cc, Department of the Interior, Page 1260]

Interior officials appear to have met with Western Energy Alliance representatives to discuss settlement options on either February 28, 2017, or March 1, 2017. [17-00434cc, Department of the Interior, Pages 1258 and 1260]

On January 31, 2018, the Bureau of Land Management issued Instruction Memorandum 2018-034, directing "its field offices 'to simplify and streamline the leasing process' so that federal leases to the oil and gas industry can be expedited 'to ensure quarterly oil and gas lease sales are consistently held,'" and requiring "the Bureau of Land Management to process a proposed lease within six months." Additionally, under the new IM, "Once-mandatory public participation in safety reviews is now left to the discretion of the agency's field representatives. Public protests of finalized leases will be shortened to 10 days, and a sale can move forward even if disputes are unresolved, according to the memo." The IM also ended Master Leasing Plans, which had been "implemented under the Obama administration to give hunters, anglers and groups hoping to protect cultural artifacts a voice in how public land should be managed when parcels are proposed for leasing." [Darryl Fears, "Trump administration tears down..."
regulations to speed drilling on public land," *Washington Post*, 02/01/18; [IM 2018-034], Bureau of Land Management, 01/31/18]

The following day, Western Energy Alliance dropped two of their three counts against the Interior Department. Because of the issuance of the new Instructional Memorandum 2018-034, WEA dropped their count that "BLM's Leasing Policies and Practices Violate the Mineral Leasing Act" and their count that "BLM's Action is Contrary to Law." [Western Energy Alliance v. Zinke et. al., Case No. 1:16-cv-00912-WJ-KBM, Stipulation of Partial Dismissal]

**Secretary Ryan Zinke met with WEA in April 2017.** The briefing summary that Secretary Zinke received ahead of his meeting with WEA encouraged him to remind WEA that Interior "welcome[d] any ideas/feedback" on regulations that WEA wanted repealed. The briefing summary also reminded Secretary Zinke to tell WEA and the other oil and gas representatives in the meeting that Interior was establishing the Royalty Policy Committee as "WEA may be interested in submitting nominations" to serve on it. Two of the attendees in the April 2017 meeting with Secretary Zinke now represent energy interests on Interior's Royalty Policy Committee.

Secretary Ryan Zinke met with Western Energy Alliance on April 25, 2017. In addition to representatives from Western Energy Alliance, representatives from Great Western Oil and Gas, Halliburton, Ultra Petroleum, BP, and QEP Resources were also in the meeting. [Secretary Ryan Zinke April 2017 Calendar, Department of the Interior]

Secretary Zinke's "Daily Briefing Summary," compiled by Interior staff and given to him prior to his meeting with WEA, was one and a half pages long—longer than many of his briefing summaries. In the brief, one of the sections was "Next Steps." The brief told Secretary Zinke that the "public notice on reestablishment of the Royalty Policy Committee and inviting nominations for the committee was published April 3, 2017," and informed him that "WEA may be interested in submitting nominations through this public process." [17-00371cl, Department of the Interior, Page 255]

According to the Secretary Zinke's briefing materials that are publicly available on the Department of the Interior's Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] Library, the April 25th 2017 WEA meeting was the only time his briefing summary reminded him to remind an organization about submitting nominations for Interior's Royalty Policy Committee. [OS FOIA Library, Department of the Interior, accessed 03/27/18]

Secretary Zinke later appointed two of the attendees in the April 25th WEA meeting, WEA President Kathleen Sgamma, and Gabrielle Gerholt, who at the time was representing QEP Resources but now works for Concho Resources, as alternate members to Interior's Royalty Policy Committee. Sgamma and Gerholt both represent "Mineral/Energy Stakeholders" on the Committee. [Press Release, Department of the Interior, 09/01/17]
The other "next step" listed for Secretary Zinke to discuss in the April 2017 meeting was that it "may be useful to remind WEA attendees of the Office of Management and Budget's [OMB] 2 for 1 regulatory requirement - for every new rulemaking, an agency must identify two existing rules to rescind." The brief instructed Secretary Zinke that "we welcome any ideas/feedback they would like to share on potential rules and regulations that [WEA] would like to see rescinded or revised." [17-00371cl, Department of the Interior, Page 255]

In August 2017, WEA submitted letters on BLM and FWS reform. The focus of the BLM letter was "to transfer oil and gas oversight authority from BLM to the states" while WEA highlighted "three main areas for reform at FWS: the ESA and conservation agreements, mitigation and climate change policies, and MBTA implementation." On September 12, 2017, WEA President Kathleen Sgamma met with Vincent DeVito and told him that WEA "really appreciate[d] the direction the Department is headed in."

On Thursday, August 10, 2017, Western Energy Alliance Manager of Government Affairs Tripp Parks emailed Kathleen Benedetto, Katharine MacGregor, and Vincent DeVito a copy of Western Energy Alliance's comments regarding DOI's reform initiative that were "specific to BLM." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/10/17]

Western Energy Alliance's "lead ask in the BLM letter [was] to transfer oil and gas oversight authority from BLM to the states." WEA argued that "the federal government is much less efficient than states in managing oil and natural gas development, taking more than 250 days to issue drilling permits compared to about 30 days on average for state agencies." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/10/17]

On August 31, 2017, Western Energy Alliance submitted comments on Fish and Wildlife Reform, which Tripp Parks mailed to Casey Hammond and Vincent DeVito. The comments in this letter focus on "three main areas for reform at FWS: the ESA and conservation agreements, mitigation and climate change policies, and MBTA implementation." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/31/17]

On September 12, 2017, "presumably as a follow up" to Western Energy Alliance's "BLM and FWS regulatory reform letters," WEA President Kathleen Sgamma met with Counselor for Interior Energy Secretary Policy Vincent DeVito. After the meeting, Sgamma thanked DeVito and said that "[w]e really appreciate the direction the Department is headed in." She also indicated that "[w]e'll work up a comprehensive briefing paper on the federal nexus and delegation of primacy ideas we discussed and get that to you as soon as they're ready." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/31/17]

**Mining**

Secretary Ryan Zinke, in March 2017, met with Landon Ash, the CEO of Xtreme Concepts. Ash was an early financial supporter of Zinke's congressional campaign and hosted a campaign fund-raiser for him in Alabama in 2014. Xtreme Concepts is a government contractor with
business before the Department of the Interior. In June 2017, the company sold ammunition to the National Park Service.

Ryan Zinke, in March 2017, had a 1-hour meeting with Landon Ash. Zinke's official schedule gives no description of the meeting. ["Secretarial Schedule," Department of the Interior, March 2017]

Landon Ash is the CEO of the Alabama-based defense contractor Xtreme Concepts. In 2014, he hosted a fundraiser for Zinke's 2014 Congressional campaign in Birmingham, Alabama. When Zinke won his seat in Congress, Ash said, "'several SEALs who now work for Xtreme served under Ryan Zinke, so we're especially pleased to be able to call him 'Congressman' now.'" [Cliff Sims, "Alabama played little-known role in electing SEAL Team Six Commander to Congress," Yellowhammer, 01/09/15]


A federal government purchase order signed June 15, 2017 shows that Xtreme Concepts sold small arms ammunition to the National Park Service for $3,625.60. The ammunition is to be used for training in Acadia National Park. ["National Park Service Purchase Oder for Xtreme Concepts," National Procurement Data System, accessed 12/22/17]

A federal government purchase order signed February 16, 2016 shows that Xtreme Concepts sold utility vehicles to the National Park Service for $13,390. ["National Park Service Purchase Oder for Xtreme Concepts," National Procurement Data System, accessed 12/22/17]

The Interior Department, under the leadership of Ryan Zinke, issued a legal decision allowing Twin Metals Minnesota to renew mining leases for their copper and nickel mining operation near Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Twin Metals is a subsidiary of Antofagasta PLC, a Chilean mining company that coincidentally is owned by the family of Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump's landlord.

In December 2016, the Obama administration decided not to renew leases "for a copper and nickel mining operation on the border of Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness," "while federal officials launched a formal review of the operation's environmental impact." Obama administration "Interior officials expressed concern that any potential spill from nearby mining could cause 'serious and irreplaceable harm'" to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, which is "the only large lake-land wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System." [Juliet Eilperin, "Trump administration renews mining leases near Minnesota wilderness, reversing Obama," Washington Post, 12/23/17]

The company applying to renew the leases was Twin Metals Minnesota, a "a subsidiary of the Chilean mining giant Antofagasta PLC." Antofagasta belongs "to the family of billionaire Andrónico Luksic, who rents a home to Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, in
Daniel Jorjani, on December 22, 2017, issued a legal decision allowing Twin Metals Minnesota to renew the leases. "Jorjani’s decision came after a concerted lobbying effort by Twin Metals and its parent company." In 2017, Jorjani met with Antofagasta and the lobbying firm that represents Twin Metals. [Jimmy Tobias, "Meet the Former Koch Adviser Slashing Conservation Safeguards at the Department of the Interior," Pacific Standard, 01/10/18]

Phil Baker and Hecla Mining Inc., in March 2018, were found by the state of Montana to be in violation of the "bad actor law" for failing to clean a mine site that is polluting waterways with "cyanide, arsenic, and other contaminants" and may require treatment "into perpetuity." In addition to not being allowed to open new mines in Montana, Hecla could be required to reimburse taxpayers "more than $35 million" for pollution cleanup. Secretary Ryan Zinke, on October 2, 2017, appeared at an industry "listening session" entitled "Cut the Red Tape: Liberating America from Bureaucracy" at the White House. At the event, Secretary Zinke apologized to Phil Baker for "impediments to mining permitting." Hecla Mining’s PAC gave $2,000 to Ryan Zinke’s congressional campaign committee in 2016.

Phillips S. Baker and Hecla Mining Inc., in March 2018, were found by the state of Montana to be in violation of the "bad actor law" for failing to clean the Pegasus Gold’s Zortman-Landusky mine, which is polluting its "surrounding waterways with cyanide, arsenic and other contaminants, prompting water treatment measures that may need to continue into perpetuity."

Montana's bad actor law blocks individuals and companies who don't clean up old mines from starting new ones. Montana's bad actor law was passed in 1989 and has only been enforced once before.

Montana Department of Environmental Quality [DEQ] Director Tom Livers said, "we’re deeming Baker a bad actor for his Pegasus connections. By knowingly employing Baker, who violated the bad actor provision, Hecla is in violation." [Matthew Brown, "Mining company may need to pay $30 million to Montana for pursuing new mines before cleaning up old ones," Associated Press, 03/22/18]

DEQ Director Tom Livers explained Phillips Baker's that Phillips Baker was also deemed a bad actor because "'[He] served as chief financial officer of Pegasus Gold Corporation and was vice-president and director of Zortman mining, the Pegasus subsidiary that operated the Zortman-Landusky mine.'" [Edward O'Brien, "Hecla Mining Co. Violated 'Bad Actor' Law, State Regulators Say," Montana Public Radio, 03/20/18]

"In the 1990s, Baker served as an executive at Pegasus Gold, Inc., which owned the Zortman-Landusky, Basin Creek and Beal Mountain mines and left the soil and water in their vicinities severely contaminated. Pegasus went bankrupt in 1998, forfeiting a $30 million reclamation
bond. Even with these funds, the state and federal governments have had to pay millions more in reclamation costs." [Patrick Reilly, "State: Hecla Violated 'Bad Actor' Law," Daily Inter Lake, 03/22/18]

PHILLIPS S. BAKER: "Hello, Secretary. Good to see you again. Phil Baker with Hecla Mining Company. I'm here to tell you and others about the impediments to mining from the permitting regime we have."

RYAN ZINKE: "On behalf of the United States government, we apologize." [Video 01, Cutting the Red Tape: Liberating America from Bureaucracy, 10/02/17 [00:02:58]]

Hecla Mining's PAC made a $2,000 contribution to Ryan Zinke's Congressional campaign in 2016. [Hecla Mining, Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 03/23/18]

Phil Baker, in addition to being the President of Hecla, is the Chairman of the National Mining Association [NMA], which represents the mining industry. Since the beginning of the Trump administration, both Secretary Ryan Zinke and Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt have participated in NMA events. NMA has met with numerous high-ranking Interior officials since Ryan Zinke became Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

Phillips S. Baker is the President/CEO of Hecla Mining Company and is also Chairman of the National Mining Association [NMA]. [Phillips S. Baker Jr., National Mining Association, accessed 03/23/18]

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spoke at the National Mining Association's Spring Board of Directors meeting on March 19, 2018. [Jamie Corey, "INTERIOR SECRETARY MEETING WITH COAL INDUSTRY LOBBY GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS," Documented, 03/19/18]

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was also initially scheduled to attend the National Mining Association's annual meeting at the Trump International Hotel in October 2017, but was unable to attend the meeting because of his travel schedule. His Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt attended instead. [Juliet Eilperin and Dino Grandoni, "Three Trump Cabinet members attended mining lobbyist meeting at Trump International Hotel," Washington Post, 10/05/17]

The National Mining Association met with high-ranking Interior officials, including Downey Magallanes, Katherine MacGregor, and James Cason, on April 4, 2017 for 45 minutes. There is no indication what the meeting was about. [Downey Magallanes' Calendar, Department of the Interior, page 67]

In a document designed to encourage people to invest in the company, Hecla advertises that Ryan Zinke has toured its mine sites and says he is a "'strong supporter'" of their developments, including the proposed Rock Creek mine.
Hecla produced a "corporate update" document that encourages people to "invest in Hecla." In the document, Hecla points out that Ryan Zinke "knows" the Montanore and Rock Creek projects, "has visited our sites," and oversees permitting agencies. ["Corporate Update," Hecla Mining Company, March 2017]

"Hecla's interest in Zinke's new post has been well documented in the company's monthly updates since before his confirmation to Interior. Those presentations note that Zinke has visited Hecla's mine sites, that he's a 'strong supporter of economic development in NW Montana,' and that he oversees the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a 'key agency involved in permitting these projects.' Politico Magazine reported in October that Zinke's deputy secretary, David Bernhardt, had jotted Russell's cellphone number in his notes during a National Mining Association board meeting that month." [Alex Sakariassen, "Hecla Mining's pipeline to Zinke," The Missoula Independent, 03/15/18]

**Endangered Species Act**

On July 11 and 12, 2017, IPAA Director of Government Relations Samantha McDonald emailed Counselor for Energy Policy Vincent DeVito and Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Greg Sheehan, saying that IPAA "strongly oppose[d] the listing" of the Texas hornshell mussel under the Endangered Species Act [ESA] "as endangered, or threatened." The Fish and Wildlife Service had been scheduled to issue an ESA listing decision for the Texas hornshell mussel in August 2017. McDonald told DeVito that IPAA was "really hoping" he could "intervene" before the species was listed. On July 25 and August 1, McDonald sent emails to Sheehan thanking him for "looking into" the Hornshell issue. On August 10, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delayed "a listing decision on the Texas hornshell for six months." On August 17, McDonald emailed DeVito and Sheehan, thanking them for the "good call" to delay the decision and saying that IPAA members were "most grateful."

IPAA Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Political Affairs Dan Naatz and IPAA Director of Government Relations Samantha McDonald met with Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Greg Sheehan on June 30, 2017. On July 11, 2017, in her thank you email following up after the meeting, McDonald told Sheehan, "We appreciated you hearing our concerns and asking so many great questions about the oil and gas industry." In the meeting, Sheehan "requested letters outlining issues [IPAA was] facing from the [Fish and Wildlife] Service in the field." McDonald sent Sheehan a letter "regarding a proposed listing decision" for the Texas hornshell mussel which was "expected by August 2017." IPAA members were "concerned that the FWS" was "pre-disposed to listing the species as endangered under the Endangered Species Act [ESA] without sound data" and that IPAA "strongly oppose[d] the listing of this species under the ESA as endangered, or threatened." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/11/17]

The Texas hornshell mussel is a "rare species" and "the last remaining native mussel in New Mexico." The Texas hornshell mussel is a freshwater mussel, "one of the most imperiled animals in the U.S." "A listing under the Endangered Species Act for the Texas hornshell... could
lead to federal protection of its habitat and would require the Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a recovery plan for the mussel." [Daniel J. Chacón, "Feds put off decision on Texas hornshell’s status," The New Mexican, 08/10/17; Adrian Hedden, "Blight on the banks: Officials hope saving a rare mussel could restore the Black River," Carlsbad Current-Argus, 11/26/17]

On July 12, 2017, Samantha McDonald emailed Vincent DeVito. She wrote that it was "great meeting" DeVito a couple of weeks prior, and given DeVito's "interest in help with energy matters," she was sending him a copy of the letter opposing the potential listing of the Texas Hornshell mussel she had sent Sheehan. McDonald wrote, "It appears our energy is being blamed as a deterrent to the species, despite facts on water science and lack of sound science. We're really hoping that you can intervene before this species gets listed next month." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/12/17]

Vincent DeVito responded, "Please let me know what you may be hearing as this unfolds." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/12/17]

On July 24, 2017, Greg Sheehan emailed Samantha McDonald, saying that he was "learning more about" the Texas hornshell listing issue internally, but he had "not seen any listing documents" so he didn't know that anything was "formally being finalized yet." McDonald responded to Sheehan saying "I noticed that the Texas Hornshell was slated for a listing determination in the Unified Agenda... next month," and provided him with a link. She continued, "Again, thank you for your interest and I appreciate your willingness to look into this for us. What is being stated in the field as fact is misconstrued and could lead to a listing decision that could adversely affect future operations in the region." Sheehan responded, "I am scheduled to go over this with Gary tomorrow so that we can properly respond." [OS-2017-01063ca, 07/24/17]

On August 1, 2017, Samantha McDonald wrote in an email to Greg Sheehan, "Thanks for looking into the Texas Hornshell issue for us. Our members are very concerned about the listing implications of this species." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/01/17]

On August 10, 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delayed "a listing decision on the Texas hornshell for six months and would reopen the comment period for an additional 30 days." [Daniel J. Chacón, "Feds put off decision on Texas hornshell's status," The New Mexican, 08/10/17]

On August 17, 2017, Samantha McDonald sent Vincent DeVito and Greg Sheehan an email titled "THANK YOU!" She wrote, "Vince and Greg, On behalf of my members, I wanted to thank you for the 6-month delay on the Texas Hornshell. They are most grateful for the extra time to allow their significant conservation efforts to come to fruition. It was a good call." Vincent DeVito responded "No problem." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/01/17]

In September 2017, IPAA sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a lawsuit designed to push the American burying beetle "off the endangered species list." Before the IPAA filed the
lawsuit, IPAA Director of Government Relations Samantha McDonald emailed Greg Sheehan, Vincent DeVito, and Tim Williams "as a courtesy" to inform them that IPAA would be suing. She sent Vincent DeVito briefing materials on the issue and at one point thanked him for his "interest and attention to this species." After sending DeVito a letter from the CEO of an Oklahoma oil and gas company, DeVito asked to be put in touch with the CEO, and the two had a phone conversation. The case is ongoing.

The American burying beetle is a scavenger insect that was "once present in 30 states and parts of Canada," but by the late 1980s "had been reduced to living in eastern Oklahoma and Block Island, Rhode Island."

"Classified as an endangered species since 1989, American burying beetle mitigation has slowed pipeline and road construction and inflated project costs throughout the eastern half " of Oklahoma. Oil and gas companies have complained that policies protecting the American Burying Beetle are "a major impediment... to produce[ing] oil and gas." [Adam Wilmoth, "Oil association sues government over endangered beetle," The Oklahoman, 09/22/17; "Oil and gas groups sue over beetle protections," Energy & Environment, 09/21/17]

On September 21, 2017, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, along with American Stewards of Liberty and Osage Producers Association, sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "in a lawsuit designed to push the beetle off the endangered species list." The lawsuit "revolved" around the agency's failure to rule within 12 months of receiving an August 2015 petition seeking removal of the beetle from Endangered Species Act protections." ["Oil and gas groups sue over beetle protections," E&E News, 09/21/17]

Before IPAA filed the lawsuit, on August 1, 2017, IPAA Director of Government Relations Samantha McDonald emailed Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Greg Sheehan "as a courtesy" to send him a letter on IPAA's "legal efforts to delist the American Burying Beetle, which has significant impacts on our Oklahoma producers." McDonald said IPAA "wanted to share our intentions to challenge and the steps that necessitate a challenge." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/01/17]

Samantha McDonald also emailed Vincent DeVito, who she called "Vince," on August 1, 2017 to inform him that "IPAA intends to file a lawsuit for failure of the Service to issue a 12-month finding on our petition to delist the American Burying Beetle." McDonald told DeVito, "Due to the impacts to our Oklahoma producers, I wanted to flag for you in your energy role." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/01/17]

Samantha McDonald also emailed Timothy Williams, saying she was "looping" him into the "impending lawsuit as well." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/01/17]

On August 3, 2017, Samantha McDonald emailed Vincent DeVito, thanking him for his call that morning. In her email, she sent a link to IPAA's "original delist petition for the ABB from 2015" which contained IPAA's "best arguments and an article referencing problems the listing has
caused." She concluded her email to DeVito, "Thank you for interest and attention to this
species." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/03/17]

The next day, on August 4, 2017, Samantha McDonald emailed Vincent DeVito again, telling him
that, "relating to the American Burying Beetle" it had come to her "attention that some small
oil and gas companies are experiencing great hardship due to changing survey requirements
in eastern Oklahoma. In this case, its tribal minerals that are jeopardized from being accessed."
She shared a letter from J. Scott DuCharme, President of Performance Operating Company,
"that paint[ed] a picture of the ongoing shenanigans." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/04/17]

After receiving the email, Vincent DeVito asked Samantha McDonald for a call with Scott
Ducharme. DeVito had a phone call with "Scott at Performance" on August 17, 2017—DeVito
told McDonald that he got "the information [he] needed" from the call. [OS-2017-001063 [Sage
Grouse Comms from Industry], Pages 246 and 288]

As of February 2, 2018, the lawsuit is ongoing. [American Stewards of Liberty et. al. v.
Department of the Interior et. al., Case No. 6:2017-cv-00352]

On December 22, 2017, the Interior Department issued a legal decision declaring that the
"Migratory Bird Treaty Act [MBTA] applies only to purposeful actions that kill migratory birds,
and not to energy companies and other businesses that kill birds incidentally." Industry
groups appear to have been engaged on this issue with Interior months before the ruling. In
August 2017, WEA sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asking that "FWS...work
with the administration" to produce "guidance that MBTA does not give the FWS to regulate
incidental take for migratory birds." IPAA lobbyist Samantha McDonald seems to have known
that the Interior Department was considering revising their interpretation of the MBTA in
November, when she emailed Deputy Director for the Office of External Affairs Timothy
Williams asking if there was "any word" on the MBTA opinion. When Interior issued their
legal decision on December 22, 2017, both WEA and IPAA applauded the decision.

On December 22, 2017, "revers[ing] a rule made in the last weeks of the Obama
administration," Interior’s Principal Deputy Solicitor Daniel Jorjani, issued a legal decision that
"declare[d] that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act applies only to purposeful actions that kill
migratory birds, and not to energy companies and other businesses that kill birds incidentally."
[Laurel Wamsley, "Accidentally Killing Birds Isn't A Crime, Says Trump Administration," NPR,
12/27/17; Daniel Jorjani, M-37050, Department of Interior, 12/22/17]

On August 31, 2017, Western Energy Alliance submitted a letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
"suggesting statutory changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act [MBTA]." WEA wrote that the
"threat of criminal enforcement for incidental take by FWS is unjustifiably causing delays or
preventing permitting of projects on federal lands." They asked that "FWS.... work with the
administration" to produce "guidance that MBTA does not give the FWS to regulate incidental
take for migratory birds." [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/31/17]
Independent Petroleum Association of America Director of Government Relations Samantha McDonald, on November 3, 2017, emailed Interior Deputy Director for the Office of External Affairs Timothy Williams an email with the title "MBTA." In her email, she asked "Any word on the solicitor's opinion yet?" [OS-2017-01063ca, 11/03/17]

On December 22, 2017, the day that Interior issued the legal decision declaring that the MBTA did not apply to companies that kill birds incidentally, both IPAA and WEA issued press releases applauding the "new Solicitor's Opinion." [Press Release, Independent Petroleum Association of America, 12/22/17; Press Release, Western Energy Alliance, 12/22/17]

A bipartisan group of former Interior Department officials who served under the last eight Presidents have since written a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke asking him to reverse Daniel Jorjani's decision, which they described as a "'new, contrived legal standard that creates a huge loophole in the existing act... allowing companies to engage in activities that routinely kill migratory birds so long as they were not intending that their operations would 'render an animal subject to human control.'" [Dino Grandoni and Juliet Eilperin, "17 former wildlife officials urge Interior to rethink easing rules against killing birds," Washington Post, 01/12/18]

**Gambling and Casinos**

Secretary Ryan Zinke's Interior Department is currently being sued by the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes for refusing to make a decision on allowing the tribes to open a new casino in Connecticut. The delay in approving the new casino "stands to benefit politically connected gambling giant MGM Resorts International," which is planning on opening a competing casino nearby. MGM Resorts International has been using "Florida-based Trump fundraiser Brian Ballard" and former Interior Secretary Gale Norton as lobbyists. Ballard met with Secretary Ryan Zinke as part of a "social visit" in August 2017. Gale Norton, who, as George W. Bush's Interior Secretary was current Interior Associate Deputy Secretary James Cason's former boss, recently got Cason a gig as a keynote speaker at the Colorado Oil & Gas Association's Annual Energy Summit. Additionally, Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt's old lobbying firm has been lobbying on behalf of an MGM affiliated company.

In September 2017, the Interior Department refused to sign off on the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes' "plans for a third Connecticut casino." While "federal law gives Interior just 45 days to issue a yes-or-no verdict after a tribe submits proposed changes to its gaming compact with a state... the department declined to make any decision in this case." Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Michael Black wrote in a letter to the tribes that "approving or disapproving the amendment to their gaming compact was 'premature and likely unnecessary,' and said Interior had 'insufficient information' to make a decision."

The Interior Department's delay in approving the new casino "stands to benefit politically connected gambling giant MGM Resorts International." "The proposed Connecticut casino
would sit on non-tribal land just across the border from a billion-dollar casino that MGM is planning in Springfield, Mass."

The Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes are now suing the Interior Department, in an attempt to "force approval of the contract." The tribes are "arguing that the law does not allow Interior to refuse to render a verdict." [Nick Juliano, "Zinke's agency held up Indians' casino after MGM lobbying," Politico, 02/01/18]

On March 02, 2017, "Florida-based Trump fundraiser Brian Ballard" registered as lobbyist for MGM Resorts International. On August 29, 2017, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "invited several lobbyists for MGM to join him and other guests for a social visit on his office balcony, which overlooks the National Mall." [Ballard Partners Lobbying Registration, United States Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, 03/02/17; Nick Juliano, "Zinke's agency held up Indians' casino after MGM lobbying," Politico, 02/01/18]

On October 25, 2017, Former Interior Secretary Gale Norton registered as a lobbyist for MGM Resorts International. The specific lobbying issues listed on her registration are "Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Connecticut gaming amendments." [Norton Regulatory Strategies Lobbying Registration, United States Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database, 10/25/17]

When Interior Associate Deputy Secretary James Cason worked at George W. Bush's Interior Department, Gale Norton, as Secretary of the Interior, was his boss. Cason has been involved at tribal issues while at Secretary Ryan Zinke's Interior Department. On May 12, Cason sent a "technical guidance letter to the tribes" acknowledging "that the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act provides for a 45-day review period for compact amendments and that the department may disapprove them only for violating the act, other federal laws or trust obligations to the tribes." This interpretation would seem to indicate that, in May, Interior had "seemed inclined to agree with the tribes' interpretation of the law." [Adam Federman, "The Plot to Loot America's Wilderness," The Nation, 11/16/17; Nick Juliano, "Zinke's agency held up Indians' casino after MGM lobbying," Politico, 02/01/18]

Sometime prior to August 14, 2017 Gale Norton contacted James Cason about the "opportunity" to attend a Colorado Oil & Gas Association's 29th Annual Energy Summit in Denver, Colorado on August 23, 2017.

On August 14, 2017, "on the recommendation" of Gale Norton, Colorado Oil & Gas Association sent James Cason received a formal invitation to attend the summit. Rachel McNerney, COGA's Programs & Administrative Coordinator, said that COGA would be "thrilled" to have Associate Deputy Secretary Cason participate. COGA CC'ed Gale Norton, using her Gmail address, on Cason's invitation. [OS-2017-01063ca, 08/14/17]

James Cason "spoke alongside Gale Norton" at the event. According to the agenda Norton and Cason participated in moderated discussion together at COGA's keynote luncheon on August
Additionally, in 2017, Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt's former lobbying firm, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, lobbied on behalf of MGM Public Policy LLC "on issues including gaming." MGM Public Policy LLC is "an affiliated company" of MGM Resorts International. [Nick Juliano, "Zinke's agency held up Indians' casino after MGM lobbying," Politico, 02/01/18]

In sum, "two casino-owning American Indian tribes are accusing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke of illegally blocking their plans to expand operations in Connecticut [by opening a new casino] – a delay that stands to benefit politically connected gambling giant MGM Resorts International." The Interior Department "declined to make any decision in this case," even though "federal law gives Interior just 45 days to issue a yes-or-no verdict after a tribe submits proposed changes to its gaming compact with a state, as the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes note in a suit they filed against Zinke and the department." [Nick Juliano, "Zinke's agency held up Indians' casino after MGM lobbying," Politico, 02/01/18]

Secretary Zinke's Interior Associate Deputy Secretary James Cason, in 2017, wrote a draft decision in which he concluded that "there was not sufficient evidence to demonstrate a relationship between the federal government and the [Mashpee] tribe on or before 1934." In an "unprecedented" move, Cason wanted to "consider whether the tribe's relationship with Massachusetts could stand in for a relationship with the federal government," which is an idea that legal experts called ridiculous and said was "not legally sound."

The Interior Department is currently searching "for a way to allow the Mashpee tribe's 171 acres on the Cape and 150 acres in Taunton, where it intends to build a casino, to remain in trust." James Cason wrote in a draft decision in June 2017 that "there was not sufficient evidence to demonstrate a relationship between the federal government and the tribe on or before 1934." However, in an "unprecedented" move, Cason "invited the both the casino plaintiffs and the tribe to submit evidence on a new front, one that will consider whether the tribe's relationship with Massachusetts could stand in for a relationship with the federal government." [Chris Lindahl, "A new look at Mashpee's tribe status," Cape Cod Times, 07/17/17]

Attorney and Indian law expert Donald C. Mitchell said that "the matter of considering the state's authority over the Mashpee tribe" was "not legally sound." Mitchell said that he was "stunned... at the ridiculousness" of Cason's idea. [Chris Lindahl, "A new look at Mashpee's tribe status," Cape Cod Times, 07/17/17]

Wildfires

Ryan Zinke's Interior Department's FY2018 budget request would have decreased funding for the Wildland Fire Management program and Federal Land Assistance, Management, and
Enhancement accounts by "$118.3 million [down] from the 2017 CR level." Interior's budget request also asked for "$149.5 million for Fuels Management," which would have been a $20.2 million decrease from 2017.

The Interior Department's Wildland Fire Management program "bridges the individual fire programs of the four land management bureaus as well as supporting the wildland fire needs of all the bureaus across the Department to create an integrated and cohesive Department-wide fire program." It is the vast majority of funding that the Interior Department allocates for fighting wildfires. ["Office of Wildland Fire," Department of the Interior, accessed 09/15/17, and "Wildfire Management Appropriations: Data, Trends, and Issues," Congressional Research Service, 08/02/16]

The Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement [FLAME] program, established by legislation passed in 2009, is "a separate account for funding for emergency wildfire suppression activities undertaken on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands." The goal of establishing the program was to help "move the USDA Forest Service... and the Department of the Interior... toward a sustainable suppression funding mechanism better suited to deal with the escalating costs of fighting emergency fires." ["Regulations and Plans," Firewise, accessed 09/15/17]

In the FY2018 budget request, Ryan Zinke's Interior Department requests $873.5 million "for the discretionary Department-wide Wildland Fire Management [WFM] program," which was "a decrease of $118.3 million from the 2017 CR level for the Wildland Fire Management and FLAME accounts." Under Zinke, the Interior Department wants to "streamline financial management processes and improve the efficiency in allocating suppression funding," and, to do so, "the Department proposes to fund all suppression activities in the Wildland Fire Management account and eliminate the separate FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund account once all current balances in the FLAME account are drawn down." Interior's budget request also "includes $322.2 million for Preparedness activities, essentially level with 2017, and $149.5 million for Fuels Management, $20.2 million below 2017." Zinke defends these cuts by saying that the "budget reflects the President's commitment to fiscal responsibility - proposing sensible and rational reductions and making hard choices to reach a balanced budget by 2027." [Ryan Zinke, "Proposed FY2018 budget request for the Interior Department," Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 06/20/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke has said that he wants "old and dead logs and vegetation" cleaned up and "old logs sold." In September 2017, he issued a Wildland Fire Directive to Interior employees in which he directed employees overseeing units "with burnable vegetation" to "think about fire in a new and aggressive way." In his directive he encouraged private contracting to remove "dead and dying trees" in order to "aggressively...minimize that threat" of wildfires.

Since becoming Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke has said that he wants "old and dead logs and vegetation" "cleaned up and old logs sold." Zinke claims that his goal is to "look at a forest as a
system and managing it better as a system." [Paul Bedard, "Interior's Zinke demands 'aggressive' war on fires, stop letting 'nature take its course," Washington Examiner, 09/14/17]

Ryan Zinke, in September 2017, issued a "Wildland Fire Directive" to "Assistant Secretaries, Heads of Bureaus and Offices, Regional Directors, State Directors, Superintendents, Refuge Managers, District Managers, and Field Office Managers." In the memorandum, Zinke asked that Interior employees "think about a different way of managing public lands to better incorporate fuels management into your resource-management planning." In particular, he directed employees overseeing units "with burnable vegetation" to "think about fire in a new and aggressive way."

Zinke continued, "fuel management is more effective when undertaken before fires break out," and instructed employees that "where dead and dying trees have become hazards that can carry fire across our boundaries or into areas that are a threat to values-at-risk, we must move aggressively to minimize that threat. If we don't have the people on hand, we have authorities to contract it to capable resource managers in the private sector." [Ryan Zinke, "Memorandum," Department of Interior, 09/13/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke has described wildfires as being a result of "mismanagement resulting from lawsuits by 'environmental extremists,'" and he has called for "active forest management" to combat wildfires. Zinke believes that "environmentalists are doing harm" and environmental policy has "absolutely" caused forest fires.

In August 2017, Ryan Zinke, Sonny Perdue, Steve Daines and Greg Gianforte all attended "an on-site briefing of a large wildfire south of Missoula." The four "blamed this and other fires on mismanagement resulting from lawsuits by 'environmental extremists' who have often successfully challenged proposed road-building and logging projects that they deem to be excessive and ecologically unsound." [Joseph Scalia op-ed, "Politicians fan smokescreen of misinformation," The Missoulian, 08/30/17; Megan Molteni, "THE SCIENCE OF FIGHTING WILDFIRES GETS A SATELLITE BOOST," Wired, 09/11/17]

Ryan Zinke, in September 2017, called for "active forest management" to combat wildfires, and said that "environmentalists [were] doing harm." He continued, saying that in Glacier "there's trees everywhere," and while, Zinke said, he wasn't "proposing we log Glacier, but other parks do use prescribed burns, they have mechanical extraction of timber, just to remove the fuel load." [Brie Ripley, "Interior Secretary Calls For 'Active Forest Management' To Check Wildfires," Montana Public Radio, 09/08/17]

In September 2017, Ryan Zinke was on Fox Business and was asked by Stuart Varney, "Do you think environmental policy has not encouraged but developed these kind of forest fires?" to which Zinke replied, "Absolutely." Varney continued, "Almost responsible for them?" Zinke responded, "There's no question that -- that the forest fire season is longer, the temperatures are hotter. But coupled with that is the amount of fuel that's in the woods itself is unsustainable." ["Varney Company" Fox Business, 09/13/17, [2:32]]
Science and Boards

The Interior Department, under the leadership of Ryan Zinke, appears to be violating the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

All indications are that the 16 board members appointed by Secretary Ryan Zinke to "a new U.S. advisory board created to help rewrite federal rules for importing the heads and hides of African elephants, lions and rhinos is stacked with trophy hunters" are likely to "agree with his position that the best way to protect critically threatened or endangered species is by encouraging wealthy Americans to shoot some of them." ["Trump wildlife board stuffed with trophy hunters," USA Today, 03/15/18]

"A coalition of more than 20 environmental and animal welfare groups objected that the one-sided makeup of the council could violate the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which requires government boards to be balanced in terms of points of view and not improperly influenced by special interests." ["Trump wildlife board stuffed with trophy hunters," USA Today, 03/15/18]

Secretary Ryan Zinke asked Interior Department scientists to "provide his office with confidential data on the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska before it was released to the general public," in violation of the U.S. Geological Survey's scientific integrity policy. Additionally, at Secretary Zinke's Interior Department employees have been editing scientific reports relating to climate change, even though Secretary Zinke, testifying before Congress, said that his staff never "'changed a comma'" on a scientific document.

Secretary Ryan Zinke asked Interior Department scientists to "provide his office with confidential data on the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska before it was released to the general public," even though Section 3c of the Geological Survey's scientific integrity policy states pre-release should not happen in these cases because it "'could result in unfair advantage or the perception of unfair advantage.'" [Juliet Eilperin, "Interior Secretary Zinke asked for confidential energy data. So two scientists left," Washington Post, 02/21/18]

"Murray W. Hitzman and Larry Meinert – who had served as the agency's associate director for energy and minerals and acting deputy associate director for energy and minerals mission area, respectively – charge that the request violated the USGS's scientific integrity policy because such commercially valuable data should not be shared in advance." [Juliet Eilperin, "Interior Secretary Zinke asked for confidential energy data. So two scientists left," Washington Post, 02/21/18]

Secretary Zinke, in March 2018, testified before Congress, and, when asked if the Interior Department was editing scientific reports relating to climate change, said "'There is no incident, no incident at all that I know that we ever changed a comma on a document itself.'" However, under Secretary Zinke, "National Park Service officials have deleted every mention of humans' role in causing climate change in drafts of a long-awaited report on sea-level rise and storm
surge" in a recently published report." [Elizabeth Shogren, "Wipeout: Human role in climate change removed from science report," Reveal News, 04/06/18]

Interior Principal Deputy Solicitor Daniel Jorjani sent Ryan Zinke's Chief of Staff Scott Hommel an email titled "Potential Non-Compliant Use of Government Resources," the text of which is redacted.

Interior Principal Deputy Solicitor Daniel Jorjani, on October 5, 2017, emailed Interior Chief of Staff Scott Hommel an email titled "Potential Non-Compliant Use of Government Resources." The text of the email is redacted. [17 007-07cd, 10/05/17]

**Attacks on Interior Employees**

Heather Swift, in June 2017, notified other Interior Department officials that Michael Reynolds, who at the time was the Acting Director of the National Park Service [NPS], was quoted in an *Energy & Environment* article where he acknowledged the impacts of climate change. Reynolds was later "shuffled out of his job" as Acting Director of NPS and "reassigned to head Yosemite National Park."

Heather Swift, on June 28, 2017, emailed Virginia Johnson, Laura Rigas and Downey Magallanes titled "fyi- mike reynolds." The email included the partial text of an E&E article, with a bolded Mike Reynolds quote. Mike Reynolds, who at the time was the Acting Director of the National Park Service had spoken out about climate change and the Trump administration, saying, "'The climate, as far as our science tells us, is changing, and so we're dealing with the resiliency factors in it, and we're dealing with the science and the facts as best we can,' he said. 'There may be some adjustments as we're getting used to a new set of leaders that want us to talk about it in different ways, but we're continuing to work on it.'" [17-00707ce, 06/28/17]

Later, in January 2018, Mike Reynolds "was shuffled out of his job" and "reassigned to head Yosemite National Park." [Kurtis Alexander, "Yosemite National Park gets new superintendent in Trump shuffle," SFGate, 01/25/18]

Secretary Ryan Zinke has complained that one-third of his employees as "'not loyal to the flag.'"

Secretary Zinke has also criticized Interior Department one-third of Interior Department staff as disloyal. He has said that "when he took over the 70,000-employee department in March that, 'I got 30 percent of the crew that's not loyal to the flag.'" [Matthew Daly, "Zinke: One-third of Interior employees not loyal to Trump," Associated Press, 09/26/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke has criticized their staff and reassigned high-level employees. Interior's inspector general investigated the "politically suspect reassignment" of dozens of senior Interior employees. Additionally, the Interior Department has been riddled with various
forms of discrimination during Secretary Zinke's tenure, with one third of employees saying they've experienced discrimination. Secretary Zinke asserted that diversity "isn't important."

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has attacked his own department's staff, saying that one third of the Interior Department was "not loyal to the flag," meaning that one third of employees weren't loyal to himself and President Trump. [Matthew Daly, "Zinke: One-third of Interior employees not loyal to Trump," Associated Press, 09/26/17]

Secretary Zinke's Interior Department has reassigned high-level Interior officials, and the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General "examined the extraordinary and politically suspect reassignment of dozens of Senior Executive Service [SES] members." The investigation came after Interior senior employee Joel Clement said "he was reassigned and 'retaliated against for speaking out publicly about the dangers that climate change poses to Alaska Native communities.'" Additionally, nearly half of the reassigned employees were minorities, which has prompted Democratic lawmakers to call on the Government Accountability Office to investigate the reassignments. [Joe Davidson, "Interior's 'unusual' transfer of senior executives spurs official probe," Washington Post, 09/12/17; Allice Ollstein, "Dems Want Probe Into Whether Interior Department Discriminated," Talking Points Memo, 03/28/18]

"The Interior Department reassigned 27 senior executives 'without a written plan or clear criteria, and without consulting the departmental leadership,' according to a department inspector general report...and because there was 'no documented action plan,' the IG was 'prevented from making a clear determination whether or not' the department 'met the legal requirements' to make the changes, the report says." [Clare Foran and Rene Marsh, "IG report: Interior reassigned senior execs without clear criteria," CNN, 04/11/18]

The Interior Department has also been riddled with various forms of discrimination during Secretary Zinke's tenure. A workplace survey released in December 2017 found that "35 percent of employees said they were harassed in the last year, with 8 percent saying they were sexually harassed," and "more than 200 employees... reported experiencing sexual assault." Additionally, as Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke has repeatedly said that he thinks diversity at the agency "isn't important." [Stephanie Ebbs, "4 senior managers at Interior Dept. fired for harassment," ABC News, 12/14/17; Sarah Ganim, "Sources: Zinke tells employees diversity isn't important," CNN, 03/27/18]

The reassignment of workers by Secretary Ryan Zinke may have "violated federal anti-discrimination laws" by targeting "employees who 'belong to a protected class.'"

"Senior Democrats are demanding that Congress's investigative arm probe whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's mass reassignment of senior career civil servants... violated federal anti-discrimination laws" by "disproportionately affecting employees who 'belong to a protected class.'" The demand came after lawyers "claimed that nearly half of those reassigned were
minorities." [Alice Ollstein, "Dems Want Probe Into Whether Interior Department Discriminated," Talking Points Memo, 03/28/18]

**Political Bullying for President Trump**

Secretary Ryan Zinke acted as President Trump's mouthpiece when he called Lisa Murkowski after she voted against taking up repealing ObamaCare to tell her "Alaska's standing with the administration was at risk" due to her vote.

In July 2017, Ryan Zinke called Lisa Murkowski to tell her "'the President [was] really disappointed'' with her after she voted against "GOP efforts to advance the party’s health care bill." Zinke warned Murkowski that "Alaska's standing with the administration was at risk due to Murkowski's dissent." It was "notable" that Zinke, "whose department has no direct role in efforts to reform health care, would bring up the issue with a sitting senator." [Miranda Green, "Murkowski says Zinke contacted her in wake of health care votes," CNN, 07/27/17]

In response to Secretary Ryan Zinke threatening "projects important to Alaska in retribution" for Senator Lisa Murkowski voting "against taking up Obamacare repeal – to warn them that the administration’s support for energy projects in the state are now at risk," the Government Accountability Office "is writing a legal opinion" on the appropriateness of doing so. [Elana Schor and Ben Lefebvre, "Democrats vow investigation, lawsuit over 'political blackmail' against Murkowski," Politico, 07/27/17, and Sara Ganim "Inspector general reports coming soon on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke," CNN, 04/10/18]

The GAO, in June 2018, said “it couldn’t issue an opinion on whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated the law by reportedly threatening...[the] Alaskan senator in a phone call because the agency didn’t cooperate in its probe.” The Interior Department did not provide GAO “with any information on the substance” of the communication with Lisa Murkowski. [Anthony Adragna, “Watchdog closes Zinke threat probe, citing lack of cooperation from Interior,” Politico, 06/27/18]

**Botched Interior Inspector General Firing**

On October 12, 2018, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson announced via email that Suzanne Israel Tufts, “a political appointee who lacked government oversight experience,” would be leaving HUD to “be the new ‘acting Inspector General’ at the Interior Department. The email was quickly leaked and raised alarm bells among those who view inspectors general as impartial, non-political investigators of government waste, fraud and abuse. Carson’s announcement came amid multiple IG investigations into” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. On October 18, 2018, “the Interior Department...walked back reports” that Suzanne Israel Tufts “was set to take over as the head inspector general.”

On October 12, 2018, “HUD Secretary Ben Carson sent an email to his agency bidding a ‘fond farewell’ to Assistant Secretary Suzanne Israel Tufts who he said would be the new ‘acting
Inspector General’ at the Interior Department. The email was quickly leaked and raised alarm bells among those who view inspectors general as impartial, non-political investigators of government waste, fraud and abuse. Carson’s announcement came amid multiple IG investigations into” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. On October 18, 2018, “the Interior Department...walked back reports’ that Suzanne Israel Tufts “was set to take over as the head inspector general.” Heather “Swift, the Interior spokeswoman, wrote in an email to reporters that Tufts was sent to Interior by the White House ‘as a potential candidate for a position in the Inspector General’s office,’ but ‘not offered a job.’ Swift went on to throw Carson and his staff under the bus, saying, ‘HUD sent out an email that had false information in it.’”

When news broke of Suzanne Israel Tufts becoming the inspector general at the Interior Department it “alarmed a group of inspectors general.” One official “said it was ‘astonishing’ to move to replace an inspector general with a political appointee who lacked government oversight experience.” [Laura Strickler and Monica Alba, “Amid confusion, Interior Department says HUD official is not taking over as agency watchdog,” NBC News, 10/18/18]

_The Washington Post_ opined in reference to various investigations and scandals involving Ryan Zinke, “to the list of Trump administration officials who seem to believe that the rules need not apply to them, add Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.”

_The Washington Post_ opined, “to the list of Trump administration officials who seem to believe that the rules need not apply to them, add Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The latest evidence comes from a report of the Interior Department inspector general, which... found that Mr. Zinke’s wife, Lolita Zinke, traveled with him on official trips in government vehicles, though doing so violated department policy. Interior staff warned the secretary that it would be ‘cleanest’ and ‘lowest risk’ if he did not give his wife rides in government vehicles, but he did so anyway, on the notion that the policy did not apply to him.”

“More disturbingly, the inspector general found that the government spent more than $25,000 to send an unarmed security detail on Mr. Zinke’s vacation to Greece and Turkey” in 2017, “an outrageous expense that should have raised red flags in the secretary’s mind. And the inspector general found that Mr. Zinke invited two of his former fundraisers on an official trip to the Channel Islands in California, without telling relevant Interior officials who they were.”

“These, meanwhile, are only a few of the ethics questions swirling around Mr. Zinke. Interior’s inspector general is overseeing at least four investigations of the secretary. Mr. Zinke and his wife have been involved with an executive from Halliburton, a drilling firm affected by Interior Department decisions, in a Montana land deal. The secretary held up a proposed casino in Connecticut after meeting with MGM lobbyists opposing what would have been new competition.

And one should not forget Mr. Zinke’s cynical abuse of his powers over offshore oil and gas drilling, giving Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R), who is locked in a tight race for [the] U.S. Senate...a
special exception from the Trump administration’s move to open American shores to exploration. The secretary flew to Florida to pose in a photo op with Mr. Scott, who got treatment no other governor in the nation received — and a boost to his campaign.” [Editorial Board, “Add Ryan Zinke to the list of Trump administration officials who flout the rules,” Washington Post, 10/29/18]

“The Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General...referred one of its probes into the conduct of Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Justice Department for further investigation” a few “days before it was announced that Interior would be getting a Trump political appointee to replace its acting inspector general.” The inspector general is “required to refer cases to the DOJ when it has reasonable grounds to believe there is a violation of federal criminal law.”

“The Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General has referred one of its probes into the conduct of Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Justice Department for further investigation, according to two individuals familiar with the matter. Interior Deputy Inspector General Mary L. Kendall, who is serving as acting inspector general, is conducting at least three probes that involve Zinke. These include his involvement in a Montana land deal” that involves Halliburton Chairman David Lesar and “the decision not to grant two tribes approval to operate a casino in Connecticut.” [Juliet Eilperin and Josh Dawsey, “Zinke’s own agency watchdog just referred him to the Justice Department,” Washington Post, 10/30/18]

“The Interior Department’s internal watchdog referred its investigation of Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Department of Justice...just days before it was announced that Interior would be getting a Trump political appointee to replace its acting inspector general, two sources confirmed.”

“The watchdog’s investigations, once referred to the DOJ, remain ongoing, meaning” a political appointee inspector general “would have had some influence over the one sent to the Justice Department.”

“The inspector general is required to establish legal grounds for a case, criminal or civil, before referring matters to the Justice Department. The watchdog is also required to refer cases to the DOJ when it has reasonable grounds to believe there is a violation of federal criminal law. The DOJ is not obligated to take up every case it receives.” [Miranda Green, “Interior watchdog referred Zinke probe to Justice days before move to replace agency IG,” The Hill, 10/31/18]

“A senior White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter, said the White House understands that the investigation is looking into whether the secretary ‘used his office to help himself.’” [Juliet Eilperin and Josh Dawsey, “Zinke’s own agency watchdog just referred him to the Justice Department,” Washington Post, 10/30/18]
Hiring Friends and Donors

Secretary Zinke rewarded two of his friends with government jobs at Interior, creating a new position for his former PAC treasurer and hiring his old high school football buddy to be a senior advisor in an area where he had no expertise. Secretary Zinke's old high school football buddy gets to assess whether grants made by the Interior Department to outside groups align with the Trump administration's priorities, even though he spent his career working for small credit unions.

Interior Secretary Zinke has rewarded his friends and political allies with Interior Department jobs. In May 2017, Secretary Zinke created an energy policy post for the former treasurer of his political action committee, Vincent DeVito. [Profile for Vincent DeVito, Department of Influence, accessed 04/06/18; Profile for Steve Howke, Department of Influence, accessed 04/06/18]

On December 28, 2017, Scott Cameron, the Interior Department's principal deputy assistant secretary for policy, management and budget, issued a directive instructing "other assistant secretaries and bureau and office heads to submit most grants and cooperative agreements for approval by one of his aides. Those include any award of at least $50,000 'to a non-profit organization that can legally engage in advocacy' or 'to an institution of higher education.'" The directive aims to "ensure those awards 'promote the priorities' of the Trump administration." [Juliet Eilperin, "Interior puts science grants through political review," Washington Post, 01/09/17]

The directive states that "assistant secretaries and bureau directors, in conjunction with Mr. Steven Howke, Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, must work with each discretionary program to set expectations and develop a plan for program execution." [Memo from Scott J. Cameron to Assistant Secretaries et al, Interior Department accessed via Washington Post, 12/28/17]

"[T]he new approval process appears to be without precedent within the department." [Juliet Eilperin, "Interior puts science grants through political review," Washington Post, 01/09/17]

Steve Howke graduated Whitefish High School in 1980. While at Whitefish High School, Howke played football with Ryan Zinke. ["Bulldogs Should be Better," The Daily Inter Lake, 09/08/77; "New Lights! Camera! Ackroyd! on Tuesday," Whitefish Radio, 06/18/07]

In June 1985, Steve Howke started working as a teller at Whitefish Credit Union. "He worked his way up the ranks to Chief Financial Officer at WCU before being appointed to serve on the Treasure State Corporate Board of Directors. ["YP Break-out Session Speaker," Millennium Corporate Credit Union, 05/17]

In 2001, Steve Howke was first elected to the board of Treasure State Corporate Credit Union. ["People," Credit Union Journal, 06/18/01]
In 2007, Steve Howke moved from Whitefish to Helena to become CEO at Treasure State Corporate Credit Union. Treasure State was a corporate credit union based in Helena, Montana that served 56 members by 2011. In 2012, Treasure State merged with Kansas Corporate, a corporate credit union based in Wichita, which later became Millennium Corporate Credit Union. ["New Lights! Camera! Ackroyd! on Tuesday," Whitefish Radio, 06/18/17; Robert McGarvery, "Scoring the Corporate Credit Unions: Who Is Left Standing?: Online Only," Credit Union Times, 08/29/11; Peter Strokzniak, "Kansas and Missouri Corporates Merge," Credit Union Times, 07/05/15; "History," Millennium Corporate Credit Union, accessed 01/09/18]


As of 2017, Steve Howke was a Business Development Rep/Financial Analyst at Millennium Corporate Credit Union. ["Membership Report," Millennium Corporate Credit Union, 10/17]

Steve Howke resigned from his position as a Business Development Rep/Financial Analyst at Millennium Corporate Credit Union in October 2017 to accept a position at the Department of Interior. ["Membership Report," Millennium Corporate Credit Union, 10/17]

Steve Howke is currently serving as a Senior Advisor to Acting Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget Scott Cameron at the Department of the Interior. Howke appears to have been in this position since at least November 6, 2017. [Organizational Chart, Department of Interior, 11/06/17]


In 2014, Steve Howke wrote a letter to the Daily Inter Lake supporting Ryan Zinke's run for Congress. Howke said he had known Zinke since kindergarten and that Zinke had remained his "close friend through thick and thin."

Howke described Zinke as "a class act" and said he was "'an extremely bright and thoughtful person that I put the utmost trust in to represent the great state of Montana, and to get our country back on track.'" [Steve Howke, "LETTER: ZINKE'S SHOWN A LIFETIME OF CHARACTER," Daily Inter Lake, 03/19/14]

At least five high-level Interior Department political appointees have worked on Ryan Zinke's campaigns or for one of his political action committees, and Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt has donated to Ryan Zinke's congressional campaigns.

Scott Hommel was the treasurer for Special Operations for America PAC, a super PAC that helped fund Zinke's 2014 congressional race. Once Zinke was elected to Congress, he appointed
Hommel to be his Chief of Staff. After becoming Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke made Hommel his Chief of Staff at Interior. [Press Release, Department of Interior, 05/26/17; Legistorm Profile for Scott Hommel, accessed 05/25/17; "Etc.," Missoula Independent, 11/07/13]

Vincent DeVito was the treasurer of Ryan Zinke's Political Action Committee in the 2016 election cycle. In May 2017, through Secretarial Order number 3351, Zinke created an "energy advisory post" for DeVito at the Interior Department, a role in which DeVito is currently serving. DeVito left Interior in August to work for oil company Cox Offshore LLC. [Corbin Hiar, "Zinke creates energy policy post for former PAC treasurer," E&E News, 05/01/17; Department of Influence Profile for Vincent DeVito]

Micah Chambers was the Deputy Political Director on Ryan Zinke's 2014 congressional campaign and then served as Zinke's Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director on Capitol Hill. Chambers is now Acting Director of Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at Interior. [LinkedIn Profile for Micah Chambers, accessed 06/09/17; Legistorm Profile for Micah Chambers, accessed 05/25/17]

According to her LinkedIn, Heather Swift was Ryan Zinke's Deputy Campaign Manager and Spokesperson and also his official Communications Director. She is currently serving as the Interior Department's Press Secretary. [LinkedIn Profile for Heather Swift, accessed 10/05/17]

Alan Mikkelsen "took over as Zinke's campaign manager in August 2013 when Zinke was seeking Montana's congressional seat and served until April 2015." Alan Mikkelsen is now serving as the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. [Dillon Tabish, "Zinke Names Former Campaign Manager to Reclamation Department," Flathead Beacon, 04/20/17]

David Bernhardt, the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, contributed $500 to Ryan Zinke's congressional campaign in 2016. [Political MoneyLine Search for David Bernhardt, CQ, accessed 10/05/17]

**Politicking**

Since becoming Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke has maintained strong ties with donors and has attended numerous political events.

From March 30 to April 1, 2017, Ryan Zinke went "on an official trip related to the Interior Department's role overseeing the U.S. territory," and after attending official events appeared in his "personal capacity" at local Republican party fundraiser, tickets for which "ranged from $75 per person to as much as $5,000 per couple to be an event 'Patron,'" and at which "Patrons and members of the host committee... could get a photo with Zinke." [Ben Lefebvre and Esther Whieldon, "Trump's Interior chief 'hopping around from campaign event to campaign event'," Politico, 10/05/17]
In May 2017, Ryan Zinke joined Mike Pence to campaign for Republican candidate Greg Gianforte, urging Montana voters to vote for Gianforte in Montana's special election to fill the congressional seat Zinke left open when he joined the Trump administration. ["The Latest: Zinke Urges Fellow Montanans to Pick Gianforte," Associated Press, 05/12/17]

Ryan Zinke said it was "official business," when in June 2017 he "gave a motivational speech" to the Vegas Golden Knights, a professional hockey team owned by Bill Foley, one of Zinke's "major" campaign donors who "heavily bankrolled Zinke's first congressional campaign in Montana." Foley is also the board chairman of Fidelity National Financial Inc., which "donated $154,823 to Zinke between the years of 2013 and 2018. Fidelity also owns Chicago Title Services, which donated $23,900 to Zinke." [Miranda Green, "Investigations opened into Zinke's meeting with Golden Knights hockey team," CNN, 10/04/17; Ben Lefebvre and Esther Whieldon, "Trump's Interior chief 'hopping around from campaign event to campaign event'," Politico, 10/05/17]

On June 25, 2017, Ryan Zinke attended "a meeting of the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a group of Republican attorneys general that has been linked to the Koch brothers." [Ben Lefebvre and Esther Whieldon, "Trump's Interior chief 'hopping around from campaign event to campaign event'," Politico, 10/05/17]

In Denver, on July 20, 2017, Ryan Zinke went to "a closed-door reception for the American Legislative Exchange Council, a group of conservative state legislators, lobbyists and industry groups that has pushed for more state control over federal lands." On the same July 2017 trip, Ryan Zinke "was a featured speaker" at a Colorado Republican Committee Round Table, and "attended the Western Conservative Summit in Denver." [Ben Lefebvre and Esther Whieldon, "Trump's Interior chief 'hopping around from campaign event to campaign event'," Politico, 10/05/17; "Official Travel Schedule of the Secretary," Department of Interior, 10/06/17]

The White House has coordinated Secretary Zinke's speaking at various Republican political events, including the keynote remarks he gave at the Republican National Committee Spring Meeting Dinner in May 2017 and his speech at the Rule of Law Defense Fund in June 2017.

Julia Griswold, who is an Executive Assistant in the Office of the President, emailed Scott Hommel and Caroline Boulton on May 20, 2017, to say "The Republican Attorney General Association has requested Secretary Zinke to be their keynote speaker at their Summer National Meeting on June 25th at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe. If he is interested, maybe it would be a great opportunity to do additional Nevada stops [which we would love]. This trip could be official or political with expenses paid by RAGA, which I would coordinate." [17-00707, Page 2710; EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON WHITE HOUSE OFFICE PERSONNEL, 06/30/17]

Ryan Zinke spoke at the Rule of Law Defense Fund event in Nevada on June 25, 2017. [17-00658ch, Page 197]
Julia Griswold of the White House also coordinated with Department of the Interior staff to coordinate the Keynote Remarks he gave at the RNC Spring Meeting Dinner in Coronado California on May 11, 2017. On May 1, 2017, Julia Griswold emailed Scott Hommel, Secretary Zinke's chief of staff, saying "On the travel front, who would you like me to work with in your shop? I'll work with the RNC on payment once we get all the preferred travel figured out. Will he want to stay overnight at the hotel do you think?" [17-00707cd, 05/01/17; 17-00658ch, Page 136]

Caroline Boulton, Secretary Zinke's scheduler, talked to the Office of Special Counsel, and determined that "RNC need[ed] to pay for travel from SLC to SAN [and his hotel stay] and then from SAN to SLC, but that DOI need[ed] to pay for the portion from SLC to BIL." [17-00707cd, 05/08/17]

On April 27, 2017, the day before he spoke at the National Rifle Association's annual convention, Secretary Ryan Zinke appointed Susan LaPierre, the wife of the NRA's CEO, to the National Park Foundation's Board of Directors.

On April 28, 2017, Secretary Ryan Zinke went to Atlanta, Georgia to speak at the National Rifle Association's annual convention. [Ryan Zinke April 2017 Calendar, Department of the Interior; Jennifer Brett, "Atlanta NRA meeting to draw guns, Trump, protesters," Atlanta Journal Constitution, 04/28/17]

On April 27, 2017, the day before he spoke at the NRA's annual convention in Atlanta, Secretary Ryan Zinke appointed Susan LaPierre, Co-Chair of NRA's Women's Leadership Forum and wife of National Rifle Association CEO Wayne LaPierre, to the "Board of Directors of the National Park Foundation, the charitable wing of the Park Service." In his letter appointing LaPierre to the Board, Secretary Zinke said that the Board "[sought] to significantly increase private philanthropic gifts to the national parks in the coming years" and told LaPierre that her "insight and experience [would] be invaluable." [17007-07ce, 04/27/17; Mike Spies, "Leaked Parks Department Memo Raises Questions about the NRA's Relationship With the Interior Department," The Trace, 08/24/17; Jennifer Brett, "Atlanta NRA meeting to draw guns, Trump, protesters," Atlanta Journal Constitution, 04/28/17]

LaPierre's "appointment wasn't formally announced," but she "posted about it on her Facebook page." [Mike Spies, "Leaked Parks Department Memo Raises Questions about the NRA's Relationship With the Interior Department," The Trace, 08/24/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke travelled via helicopter to Camp David, Stoystown, Pennsylvania, and New York City in September 2017. His wife accompanied him on the entire trip. Interior's Office of Ethics had questions about details involving the helicopter ride as "Ms. Zinke most likely" needed to pay out of her own pocket for the helicopter trip.

Ryan Zinke, from September 10 to September 13, 2017, travelled to Camp David, Stoystown Pennsylvania, and New York City.
Spouse dress code suggestions were included on the schedule: for the day in Camp David, the spouse dress code suggestion was "casual elegance," and special notes were made for the Pennsylvania events for the "spouse" that "Spouse: Business // Flat shoes may be needed due to terrain" and "Spouse: Business/ Flat shoes highly recommended for Wreath Laying Portion."
Lola Zinke's name appears on the vehicle manifest for events Secretary Zinke participated in, including visiting Fort Wadsworth, visiting the Statue of Liberty, and visiting the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site, and in an email Caroline Boulton, Secretary Zinke's scheduler confirmed his wife was there "for the whole trip to New York."

To get to Camp David, the Zinkes, along with other members of the Cabinet and their spouses, took a helicopter from Washington DC to Camp David. [17-00707cd, 09/10/17 – 09/13/17]

Kimberly Benton, Detail to Interior's Office of Ethics, wrote to Interior staffers Caroline Boulton and Timothy Nigborowicz about the trip. She asked "There were questions about the helicopter ride, who is paying, White House or Interior? Cost? food, etc?" [17-00707cd, 09/05/17]

Benton later asked Boulton if she could "let us know more about the helicopter once you find out, since... Ms. Zinke most likely will need to pay." [17-00707cd, 09/06/17]

**Once in New York, the Zinkes dined with a group of "Wall Street hitters," including private equity fund directors, CEOs, and bankers, on the evening of September 11, 2017. Attendees included hedge fund manager Gary Kosinski, who owns two properties at the Yellowstone Club, and Ken Pontarelli, who is a "recently retired partner of Goldman Sachs" who "buys large energy companies."

On Monday, September 11, 2017, Secretary Ryan Zinke and his wife had dinner with a group of private equity fund directors, CEOs, bankers, and others that Jack Daly of global private equity firm TPG capital described to Secretary Zinke as "Wall Street hitters." In an email from Jack Daly to Secretary Ryan Zinke, Daly explained to Zinke the background on the various attendees at the dinner: "Henry & Vanessa Cornell [Henry runs Cornell Capital, a large private equity fund; former partner at Goldman Sachs; you met him at the Yellowstone Club; Board of Directors of Navy SEAL Foundation], Jeromy & Stephanie Williams [Navy Captain and recent CO of Dev Group, currently fellow at Council of Foreign Relations], Steve Witoszki & Jennifer [Steve runs Global Security for JPM; retired SEAL and Board of Navy SEAL Foundation; Jennifer is an entrepreneur ... founded Beauty Bar], Gary and Penny Kosinski [Gary grew up with bobby smith and me in Pittsburgh; runs Kore Capital, a large hedge fund in Palm Beach; you met him at the Yellowstone Club ... owns two properties there] Ken Pontarelli [Ken is a recently retired partner of Goldman Sachs; buys large energy companies], Tom Arenz [Naval Academy late 70s; graduated with Bob Harward; Managing partner of Harvest Capital, a large private equity fund], Brian O'Callahan [CEO of CPI, a top Wall Street headhunting firm]." [17-00707cd, 09/10/17]
Secretary Zinke had met with Jack Daly earlier in 2017: on April 19, while Secretary Zinke was on an official trip to California, he had lunch with Jack Daly at Spruce Restaurant in San Francisco. [17-00659, 04/19/17]

On September 12, 2017, the following evening on the New York trip, Secretary Zinke and his wife had drinks with UN Ambassador Nikki Haley and her husband Michael. [17-00707cd, 09/08/17]

It appears that initially the New York trip may have been planned in order to get media coverage. Interior Communications Director Lauren Rigas started planning the trip in June 2017, trying to figure out when Secretary Zinke could "tape his long-awaited piece with Brian" Kilmeade on Fox & Friends and "possibly other media." Secretary Zinke did a total of four interviews. When he had his Fox & Friends interview with Brian Kilmeade he took anchors Brian Kilmeade and Nicole del Castillo on crown tours of the Statue of Liberty.

Laura Rigas, on June 8, 2017, emailed Heather Swift and Caroline Boulton, saying "Let's start to think about a day when the Secretary can go to NYC. I anticipate that he would tape his long-awaited piece with Brian on F&F [possibly at the Statue of Liberty] and possibly other media [WSJ Ed Board?]. We could also have him tour several other DOI assets as well. I'm sure we could come up with some great options. Caroline -- what day might he be available? Anything before the 4th of July?" [17-00707cd, 06/08/17]

Heather Swift responded, "I recommend June 29/30 so that we can do a regular Fox and Friends hit and also the statue of liberty special for July 4th. He has also been asked to do the CBS Morning Show when he goes to NYC so we will need to do an overnight or two. WSJ editorial board definitely. On long island, he could go to TR historic sites, offshore wind, or fire island national seashore." [17-00707cd, 06/08/17]

When Secretary Zinke eventually did visit New York, in September 2017, he had an interview with Fox News on September 11, and on September 12 he had two radio interviews in the SiriusXM Studio. He went on the David Webb Show and the Wilkow Majority. [17-00707cd, 09/11/17- 09/12/17]

Later on September 12th, he had his Fox and Friends interview with Brian Kilmeade, and took Fox and Friends anchors Brian Kilmeade and Nicole del Castillo on crown tours of the Statue of Liberty. Jack Daly, Partner at global private equity firm TPG capital, also attended the tour. [17-00707cd, 09/12/17]

Even though he took Fox and Friends reporters on a crown tour of the Statue of Liberty, Interior staff, including Rusty Roddy, Cherie Butler and Michael Amato, the National Park Service Chief of Interpretation, Education & Visitor Services and two of Secretary Zinke's security detail were given a "general tour only" and were not taken on the crown tour. [17-00707cd, 09/12/17]
Although he had time to have dinner with "Wall Street hitters" and was able to do four interviews, Secretary Ryan Zinke did not have "availability" to visit the National September 11 Memorial & Museum because he had too much to "squeeze" in on his brief New York trip.

The same trip, Secretary Zinke's scheduler told the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, "with the need to squeeze as much as possible from a two day trip into one day, there is not availability for him to stop and have the time he would need to tour the site and museum." Boulton had previously been in touch with the Museum trying to find a time for Secretary Zinke to visit. [17-00707cd, 09/12/17]

Lola Zinke accompanied Secretary Ryan Zinke on an official trip to South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida in October 2017. Secretary Zinke went on the trip to tour "a lot of the hurricane damage at four national parks" and to visit "some FEMA sites." Interior Press Secretary Heather Swift asked the White House for permission to use the trip as a press opportunity for Secretary Zinke. She wanted to get him on Fox News and "to have a camera crew go to the tour he does at a FEMA site." During the trip, Secretary Ryan Zinke and his wife stayed at a luxury oceanfront hotel in Miami Beach. During his stay at this hotel Secretary Zinke attended an open bar reception put on by the Business Council, an association of CEOs, that was part of a larger Business Council conference. Energy executives, including the CEOs of BHP Billiton, ExxonMobil, Anadarko Petroleum, and the former CEO of U.S Steel attended the Business Council conference. Secretary Zinke also visited a personal friend in Jacksonville during this official trip.

Ryan Zinke travelled on an official Department of the Interior trip to South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida from October 2 to October 10, 2017. He was visiting "south florida" to tour "a lot of the hurricane damage at four national parks and also visiting some FEMA sites." He also stopped at Lake Okeechobee to get a briefing on Everglades restoration issues. [17-00707ce, 09/27/17; Eric Staats, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke gets in-the-swamp view of Big Cypress, Everglades Park," Naples News, 10/06/17]

Lola Zinke travelled with Secretary Ryan Zinke on this trip, accompanying him to South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. She went with Secretary Zinke to visit: Fort Sumter National Monument on October 3, 2017, to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge on October 4, 2017, to Lake Okeechobee & Herbert Hoover Dike on October 5, 2017, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge on October 5, 2017, Big Cypress National Preserve, including touring damaged Everglades National Park Sites on October 6, 2017, and Everglades National Park on Saturday, October 7, 2017. [17-00707cd, 10/02/17- 10/10/17]

The previous week, at the time Interior was planning the trip, Interior Press Secretary Heather Swift explained Lola Zinke's presence on the trip, saying that Interior was "looking into" the possibility of Secretary Zinke "meet[ing] with displaced PR families." Swift continued, "His wife Lola is a native spanish speaker so she will accompany as well." [17-00707ce, 09/27/17]
Secretary Zinke stayed at 1 Hotel South Beach in Miami Beach, Florida, from October 5, 2017 to October 10, 2017. His wife, Lola, joined him "for the duration of his stay." A member of Secretary Zinke's protection detail also stayed in the hotel [in a separate room] during Secretary Zinke's stay. The rooms cost $199 per night each. According to Secretary Zinke's schedule, expenses incurred that were "over the government rate" were "paid personally" by Secretary Zinke. [17-00707cd, 10/02/17; 17-00707cd, 10/02/17- 10/10/17]

The average hotel room size of luxury oceanfront hotel 1 Hotel South Beach is a "spacious 700 square feet," and room prices range from $458 per night to $2,154 per night. [1hotels.com/south-beach; James Reginato, "The New Miami Hotel That Oozes Eco-Friendly Cool," Vanity Fair, 05/15]

On October 5, 2017, Secretary Ryan Zinke attended an open bar reception put on by the Business Council, an "association of the Chief Executive Officers of the world's most important business enterprises." The reception was part of a longer conference that the Business Council was putting on at 1 Hotel South Beach, the hotel where Secretary Zinke was staying. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson also attended the Business Council reception. [17-00707cd, 10/05/17; Home, The Business Council, accessed 04/27/18]

Many energy executives attended the Business Council October 2017 event, including BHP Billiton CEO Andrew Mackenzie, ExxonMobil CEO Darren Woods, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation CEO Al Walker, and former United States Steel Corporation CEO Mario Longhi. [17-00707, 10/02/17]

Heather Swift wanted to use the trip as an opportunity to get press. Swift, on September 28, 2017, emailed Alexa Henning in the White House asking if the administration was "OK with Zinke doing FBN [Fox Business Network] Mornings w/ Maria [Bartiromo] Thursday or Friday next week? We'd probably want to have a camera crew go to the tour he does at a FEMA site." Henning responded, "I think it would be good to do press but I want to make sure we're sensitive about this and coordinating with DHS/FEMA." [17-00707, 09/28/17]

It appears as though the interview ended up not happening. [Evlondo Cooper, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has appeared on Fox News four times more than on the other major TV networks combined," Media Matters, 04/19/18]

Secretary Ryan Zinke and Lola Zinke also stopped at the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida on October 5, 2017 during the trip. The visit was included at Secretary Zinke's request. [17-00707cd, 09/29/17; 17-00707cd, 10/02/17- 10/10/17]

Secretary Zinke also stopped, and possibly stayed the night, at the home of a personal friend in Jacksonville. Secretary Zinke’s friend’s name is not listed: on the schedule, the stop is described as "Personal Friend's Home" in Jacksonville, Floridia. The next item on Secretary Zinke's schedule immediately following the visit is "downtime at RON" [Residence Over Night]. Because
there is no transport time included between the social visit and the "downtime at RON," it is possible the Residence Over Night was at the friend's house. [17-00707cd, 10/02/17- 10/10/17]

On March 13, 2018, there was a special congressional election in Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District. Despite Donald Trump winning the district by 20 points in 2016, this race was reportedly a "dead heat" going into the final few days. On February 23, 2018, Secretary Ryan Zinke traveled to Fredericktown, Pennsylvania, roughly two miles from the district, purportedly to announce nationwide mine reclamation grants. One state legislator commented on how abnormal it was to have a cabinet member in Fredericktown and called Zinke's appearance "'unusual.'" Secretary Zinke appears to have stayed the night in Pennsylvania, as the next day he gave a Fox News interview from the 18th Congressional District, saying he was "concerned" about the election, as there was "a group of Democrats that want obstruction." This trip may have violated the Hatch Act.

On March 13, Pennsylvania will hold a special election in CD 18. Despite Donald Trump winning the district by 20 points in 2016, this race is reportedly a "dead heat." In the past few weeks, President Donald Trump and the Vice President have both held fundraisers for Republican candidate Rick Saccone. [Jacob Pramuk & John W. Schoen, "Special House election is a dead heat in a Pennsylvania district Trump won by 20 points," CNBC, 02/27/18; Alex Isenstadt, "Pence to headline Trump hotel dinner to raise money for GOP candidates," Politico, 01/28/18; Alex Isenstadt, "Trump set to hold fundraiser for Saccone," Politico, 02/13/18]

On March 13, 2018, Ryan Zinke traveled to the East Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Company in Fredericktown, Pennsylvania, roughly two miles from the current 18th congressional district, to announce mine reclamation grants for states and Indian tribes. While Zinke announced $300 million in grant funding, only $55.7 million of that is allocated to Pennsylvania. [Rick Shrum, "Interior secretary brings mine reclamation funds to area," Observer-Reporter, 02/24/18; Courtney Linder, "Pennsylvania receives $55 million to redevelop coal refuse sites," Pittsburgh Post-Tribune, 02/24/18; "Find Your Representative," U.S. House of Representatives, accessed 02/27/18]

State Rep. Pam Snyder [D-Jefferson] commented on how abnormal it was to have a Cabinet member in Fredericktown, saying, "'It probably wouldn't be unusual if the secretary of the Interior came to Harrisburg, Pittsburgh or Philadelphia [...] But to have the secretary in Fredericktown is unusual.'"

On February 24, 2018, sometime between 10 am and 12 pm, Fox News host Neil Cavuto interviewed Ryan Zinke about the 18th district congressional race, and said he was "there right now advocating in Pennsylvania." When asked specifically about the 18th district campaign, Zinke said he was "concerned," claiming it was "hard to get things done when you have a group of Democrats that want obstruction." ["Secretary Ryan Zinke on energy initiative, Pennsylvania race," Fox News, 02/24/18]
"The Office of Special Counsel is considering" whether or not Secretary Zinke announcing "$56 million in grants to help clean up abandoned mining sites at an event with state Rep. Rick Saccone," who was a Republican congressional "candidate in...[a] tight race," violated the Hatch Act. [Sara Ganim, "Inspector general reports coming soon on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke," CNN, 04/10/18]

When Governor Rick Scott, who is now a U.S. Senate candidate, and Secretary Ryan Zinke announced "that Florida was 'off the table' for offshore oil drilling," Secretary Zinke may have violated the Hatch Act.

When Governor Rick Scott, who is now a U.S. Senate candidate, and Secretary Ryan Zinke announced 'that Florida was 'off the table' for offshore oil drilling, the governor cast the hastily arranged news conference at the Tallahassee airport as unplanned and the Trump administration's decision as something Scott had influenced at the eleventh hour," but "Zinke's top advance staffer...was in Tallahassee the previous day...and top officials from the offices of both Scott and the secretary were in regular contact for several days leading up to the announcement." The event "was carefully choreographed to give Scott a political win." [Matt Dixon, "Records show Trump aides plotted political win for Rick Scott," Politico, 03/27/18]

"The Office of Special Counsel is considering" whether or not this is a Hatch Act violation. [Sara Ganim, "Inspector general reports coming soon on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke," CNN, 04/10/18]

"Republican donors paid up to $5,000 per couple for a photo with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke at a [Republican Party] fundraiser held during a taxpayer-funded trip to the U.S. Virgin Islands," which raised "questions about his habit of mixing official government business with political activism."

"Republican donors paid up to $5,000 per couple for a photo with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke at a [Republican Party St. Croix] fundraiser held during a taxpayer-funded trip to the U.S. Virgin Islands," which raised "questions about his habit of mixing official government business with political activism." Secretary "Zinke took a $3,150 flight on a private plane, paid for by the department, from St. Croix to official functions on St. Thomas and returned later that evening." [Ben Lefebvre and Esther Whieldon, "Trump's Interior chief 'hopping around from campaign event to campaign event'," Politico, 10/05/17]

Ethics watchdogs say this activity "risks tripping over the prohibitions against using government resources for partisan activity." [Ben Lefebvre and Esther Whieldon, "Trump's Interior chief 'hopping around from campaign event to campaign event'," Politico, 10/05/17]

**Taxpayer-Funded Chartered Flights and Lavish Travel**

Secretary Ryan "Zinke has chartered" numerous flights, including "a four-hour flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont., aboard a private plane" after he gave a speech to employees of
William Foley, who is a political benefactor, that "cost taxpayers $12,375." Secretary Zinke also took "private flights during a trip to the Virgin Islands" and "shared a military aircraft with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to attend a briefing at a wildfire camp in Montana." Zinke defended his use of private plans in a speech to the conservative Heritage Foundation, "calling the controversy surrounding them 'a little BS.'"

Interior Secretary Ryan "Zinke has chartered three flights since March" 2017, including "a four-hour flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont., aboard a private plane" that "cost taxpayers $12,375," even though "commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as $300." The private plane was co-owned, "through a holding company," by "Jay Nielson, the executive vice president of Nielson & Associates, an oil-and-gas exploration and production firm."

Zinke took the charter flight "after giving a motivational speech to the Vegas Golden Knights, the city's new National Hockey League team," which "is owned by Bill Foley, chairman of Fidelity National Financial." "Foley twice gave $2,600, the maximum contribution, to Zinke's political campaigns when the Republican successfully ran for Montana's congressional seat," while "employees and political action committees associated with" Fidelity National Financial "donated a total of $199,523 to Zinke's two congressional campaigns."

Zinke also took "private flights during a trip to the Virgin Islands" and "shared a military aircraft with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to attend a briefing at a wildfire camp in Montana." [Lucien Bruggeman, "Interior secretary chartered flights at taxpayer’s expense, including $12K trip," ABC News, 09/29/17; Drew Harwell and Lisa Rein, "Zinke took $12,000 charter flight home in oil executive’s plane, documents show," The Washington Post, 09/28/17; Zack Colman, "Zinke flight costs $12K after event with pro hockey team," E&E News, 09/29/17]

Ryan Zinke defended his use of private plans in a speech to the conservative Heritage Foundation, "calling the controversy surrounding them 'a little BS.'" He "prefaced his prepared remarks by saying: 'I'd just like to address, in the words of General [H. Norman] Schwarzkopf, "a little BS" on travel.'" [Timothy Cama, "Zinke calls flight controversy 'a little BS,'" The Hill, 09/29/17; Eyewitness News 6PM, IQMedia, 09/29/17]

Ryan Zinke co-sponsored bipartisan legislation "to prevent members of Congress from using official funds for first-class airfare." The bill, introduced by Reps. Paul Gosar [R-Ariz.] and Raul Ruiz [D-Calif.] and "titled the Coach-Only Airfare for Capitol Hill [COACH] Act, would mandate that lawmakers and staffers can only fly first-class with personal funds. It would permit exceptions for first-class travel to accommodate disabilities or other medical needs." [Cristina Marcos, "Bill would bar lawmakers from flying first class," The Hill, 05/04/15]

The abovementioned "four-hour flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont., [was] aboard a private plane" co-owned, "through a holding company," by "Jay Nielson, the executive vice president of Nielson & Associates, an oil-and-gas exploration and production firm." Secretary
Zinke took the flight after he gave "a motivational speech to the Vegas Golden Knights." Nielson & Associates, which "is primarily engaged in oil and gas exploration and production in the United States," has held Bureau of Land Management oil and gas leases, and Nielson Capital Partners, LLC, which is registered to Jay Neilson, currently holds two Bureau of Land Management oil and gas leases in Wyoming.

In June 2017, Interior Secretary Ryan "Zinke and his staffers took a four-hour flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont., aboard a private plane" co-owned, "through a holding company," by "Jay Nielson, the executive vice president of Nielson & Associates, an oil-and-gas exploration and production firm." Nielson "said he was not in control of the plane at the time and that it was chartered through a company called Choice Aviation." He claimed that "he was unsure whether Zinke flew on the plane and added, 'Part of why people charter planes is they like to remain somewhat private.'"

"The landing in Kalispell put Zinke a short drive from his home in Whitefish, Mont., where he spent the night, documents show. The flight cost taxpayers $12,375, according to an Interior Department spokeswoman. Commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as $300."

"Zinke took the private charter flight in late June after giving a motivational speech to the Vegas Golden Knights, the city's new National Hockey League team. The team is owned by Bill Foley, chairman of Fidelity National Financial. Employees and political action committees associated with the financial services company donated a total of $199,523 to Zinke's two congressional campaigns, Federal Election Commission records show." [Drew Harwell and Lisa Rein, "Zinke took $12,000 charter flight home in oil executive's plane, documents show," Washington Post, 09/28/17]

"Zinke 'has never met or spoken to Mr. Nielson and that the charter plane company is a vendor of the federal government,' an Interior spokesperson told CNN." [Miranda Green, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke calls news on his private jets 'a little BS,'" CNN, 09/29/17]

"Nielson & Associates was founded in 1992 by James Nielson. The company is primarily engaged in oil and gas exploration and production in the United States. Mr. Nielson is the former CEO of Husky Oil and has over 40 years' experience producing heavy oil." ["Synergy and Nielson to Build Heavy Oil Upgrading Plant," Business Wire, 07/17/02]

Jay "Nielson's grandfather, Glen Nielson, founded Husky Energy in the 1930s in Cody, Wyoming, when the company was called Husky Refining Company. The Nielson family sold their stake in Husky Energy, one of the largest oil and gas companies in Canada, in the late 1970s." [Mark Hand, "Believe it or not, another Trump official has been caught charging taxpayers for private flights," ThinkProgress, 09/29/17]

Glenn Nielson got "the nickname Mr. Asphalt for his tireless efforts to expand use of the paving material in the United States and Canada" and, "in 1966, he gained broader recognition as
chairman of the Business-Industry Political Action Committee, a business lobbying group set up in 1963 to counter the influence of the Committee on Political Education, then the political action arm of organized labor." [Barnaby J. Feder, "Glenn E. Nielson, 95, Builder Of Oil and Asphalt Business," New York Times, 11/05/98]

Nielson & Associates, Inc. is located in Cody, Wyoming.

The company's listed staff members are:
- James E. Nielson, President & CEO
- Jay E. Nielson, Executive Vice President

Nielson Energy Group, LLC, is the old name of what is now Nielson Capital Partners, LLC. The business is registered to Jay Nielson. [Wyoming Business Search, Wyoming Secretary of State, accessed 10/02/17]

Jim Nielson—Jay's father—was born April 2, 1931 and graduated from the University of Wyoming "in 1954 with a degree in business administration." "From 1973 to 1979, he served as president and CEO of Husky Oil Corporation, a fully integrated international oil company based in Calgary, Canada." "From 1979 to 1992, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of JN Oil and Gas Company." Nielson has served on the boards "of the American Petroleum Institute, the Shoshone First Bank, Y-Tex Corporation, and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center."

"He served as a board member for the Wyoming Pipeline Authority for 28 years, serving under four governors and is a former director of the Denver branch of the Kansas City Federal Reserve. He has also served as president of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association in Denver and has been involved in many other boards in Wyoming, Colorado, and Houston." ["Jim Nielson," Cody Character [Blog], September 2008, accessed 10/02/17; "Jim Nielson: 2016 UW Distinguished Alumnus," University of Wyoming, accessed 10/02/17; James E. Nielson Executive Profile, Blomberg, accessed 10/03/17; "Synergy Technologies Announces First Two Appointments to Newly Formed Advisory Committee," PR Newswire, 01/13/00]

Jay Nielson, according to his [presumed] Facebook profile, is a "retired college administrator" who worked at Central Wyoming College from 1998 to 2012. He is the Vice President of Yellowstone Recreations Foundation, which operates the Sleeping Giant Ski Area & Zipline in Cody, WY. [Facebook Profile for Jay Nielson, accessed 10/02/17; "Who We Are," Yellowstone Recreations Foundation, accessed 10/02/17]

In 2011, Nielson & Associates was a "current BLM oil and gas lessee." [Robert V. Abbey to Edward J. Markey, 06/03/11]

According to a 2001 court case: "6. Defendant Nielson is a small, privately held Wyoming corporation that produces and sells oil, hydrocarbon liquids and CO2 from the 'McCallum' fields in northern Colorado pursuant to leases with the U.S. government. 7. The McCallum leases were originally entered into between Conoco, Inc. and the U.S. government. [...] 12. In 1994,
Nielson purchased certain assets from Conoco, including the McCallum leases, and succeeded Conoco as seller under the Agreement. [United States Ex Rel. Jack J. Grynberg v. Praxair, Inc. and Nielson and Associates, Inc., Case No. 98-CV-16, 03/28/01]

In 2006, "Nielson & Associates Inc., Nucor Oil & Gas Inc. and R&N Investments LLC" arranged "to sell its interests in the McCallum Field, North Park Basin, Jackson County, Colorado." The companies had "in 59 oil wells on 9,607 gross acres." ["On the Market," A&D Watch, 04/01/06]

Nielson & Associates does not appear to hold any BLM oil and gas leases in Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Nebraska, or any of the eastern states. [LR 2000 Database, accessed 10/03/17]

Nielson Capital Partners, LLC, which is registered to Jay Neilson, currently holds two Bureau of Land Management oil and gas leases in Wyoming. [Search in BLM LR 2000]

The first lease that Nielson Capital Partners LLC holds is approximately 597 acres and is managed by BLM's Kemmerer Field Office. [BLM Case recordation WYW 160457, accessed 11/30/18]

The second lease that Nielson Capital Partners LLC holds is approximately 160 acres and is managed by BLM's Kemmerer Field Office. [BLM Case recordation WYW 160458, accessed 11/30/18]

Nielson Capital Partners LLC does not appear to hold any BLM oil and gas leases in Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Nebraska, or any of the eastern states. [LR 2000 Database, accessed 10/03/17]

Nielson Capital Partners, LLC, is registered to Jay Neilson. [Wyoming Business Search, Wyoming Secretary of State, accessed 10/02/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke was investigated by the Interior Inspector General for his use of chartered flights. The Interior Inspector General found that Secretary Zinke has failed to keep complete travel records. 

The Interior Department's office of inspector general is currently investigating Secretary Zinke's use of chartered planes. [Jacqueline Thomsen, "Interior watchdog investigating Zinke's use of chartered jets," The Hill, 10/02/17]

In June 2017, Secretary Zinke "chartered a flight from Las Vegas to near his home in Montana... aboard a plane owned by oil-and-gas executives," a flight that "cost taxpayers $12,375." A few months earlier, in March 2017, "Zinke and his official entourage also boarded private flights between the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix during a three-day trip to the Virgin Islands..." [Interior watchdog investigating Zinke's use of chartered jets, The Hill, 10/02/17]
Islands." The trip included "an official snorkeling tour." Secretary Zinke's spokesperson, Heather Swift, has said his "charter flights were authorized by ethics officials and booked only when feasible commercial flights were unavailable." [Drew Harwell and Lisa Rein, "Zinke took $12,000 charter flight home in oil executive's plane, documents show," Washington Post, 09/28/17]

The Interior Department's Office of Inspector General, in their investigation, found that Secretary Ryan Zinke had "absent or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips." [Lisa Rein and Drew Harwell, "Watchdog says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke failed to properly document travel," Washington Post, 11/16/17]

The "$12,000 charter flight by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was reviewed and approved by department ethics officials without complete information, because staffers who helped schedule the trip did not provide sufficient details," Interior's inspector general said. "A report by Interior's inspector general said Zinke's use of a chartered flight after he spoke to a National Hockey League team in Las Vegas 'might have been avoided' if Interior employees had worked with the team to accommodate Zinke's schedule.

Zinke and four Interior Department staffers flew on a private plane from Las Vegas to his home state of Montana in June 2017. Zinke has said no commercial flight was available for the late-night flight that allowed him to deliver a speech to Western governors the next day in Whitefish, Montana. Zinke, a former Montana congressman, was in Las Vegas to speak to the Vegas Golden Knights, the city's new National Hockey League team. The team's owner, Bill Foley, contributed to Zinke's congressional campaigns. The IG's report...said Zinke never mentioned the Interior Department or his role as secretary in the June 2017 speech to the fledgling hockey team, staff and coaches, instead focusing on his experience as a former Navy SEAL. An ethics official said the speech should have been tied to the department's mission to qualify as an official event. The ethics official, Melinda Loftin, told investigators she did not know that the team's owner had donated to Zinke's congressional campaign until it was reported in a newspaper article after the speech.

"Two other charter flights taken by Zinke, in Alaska and the U.S. Virgin Islands, 'appeared to have been reasonable as related to official DOI business,' the report said." [Matthew Daly, "Watchdog: Zinke charter flight approved without full info," Associated Press, 04/16/18]

Secretary Zinke has been investigated for his use of chartered planes. The Interior IG ultimately found that Zinke's flights generally followed guidelines, but his staffers did not provide adequate information to ethics officials on some of his flights.

The Interior Department's inspector general investigated Secretary Zinke for his use of chartered planes at taxpayer expense. Secretary Zinke has "mixed political gatherings and personal destinations with his taxpayer-funded work" as Interior Secretary. He has taken "multiple flights on chartered or military planes to travel to his home state of Montana, as well as to travel to events between two Caribbean islands." Moreover, in summer 2017, the Interior Department admitted it made a blunder after it tried "to use wildfire preparedness funds to pay

In the wildfire preparedness funds situation, the Department of the Interior, in 2017, used "wildfire preparedness funds to pay for an unrelated" $39,295 "helicopter tour of Nevada taken by Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke... even though the secretary did not visit any fire zones that day." [Celeste Katz, "INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TAPPED WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS FUNDS FOR RYAN ZINKE HELICOPTER TOUR," Newsweek, 12/29/17]

The Interior IG ultimately found that "Zinke's flights generally followed guidelines, but that staffers did not provide complete information to ethics officials on his $12,000 flight." [Caroline Zhang, "A GUIDE TO THE 17 FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO RYAN ZINKE," CREW, accessed 11/30/18]

When an Interior employee in Zinke's Interior Department attended a Western Governors' Association meeting in Whitefish, Montana in June 2017, he stayed at a resort owned by William Foley, who is Secretary Ryan Zinke's "billionaire friend and political benefactor."

Zinke's acting Bureau of Land Management Director Michael Nedd, in June 2017, attended a Western Governors' Association meeting in Whitefish, Montana. While in Whitefish, he stayed for three nights "at the Whitefish Mountain Resort — a sprawling ski and lodging facility just west of Glacier National Park owned by none other" than Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "billionaire friend and political benefactor William Foley."

"Whitefish Mountain Resort is solely owned by a company called Winter Sports Inc., according to business records filed with the Montana secretary of state's office. Foley is listed as a director for Winter Sports, and SEC filings indicate that he first purchased an interest in the company in 2005."

In the same month, Secretary Zinke gave a "'motivational speech'" to the Las Vegas Golden Knights, the National Hockey League Team that Foley owns. Zinke used a charter plane to leave Las Vegas, a flight that cost "taxpayers a whopping $12,375" and that prompted the "Interior Department's inspector general office to open an investigation into Zinke's use of charter planes." The U.S. Office of Special Counsel has also begun its "own investigation into whether Zinke's Las Vegas speech with Foley violated the Hatch Act, which prohibits executive branch employees from engaging in political activity. Foley had been a major donor to Zinke's political campaigns." [Itai Vardi, "Top Interior Official Stayed At Montana Resort That Secretary Zinke's Billionaire Friend And Donor Owns," Huffington Post, 12/12/17]

While a member of the House of Representatives, Ryan Zinke co-sponsored bipartisan legislation "to prevent members of Congress from using official funds for first-class airfare."
The bill, "titled the Coach-Only Airfare for Capitol Hill [COACH] Act, would mandate that lawmakers and staffers can only fly first-class with personal funds." Under Federal Travel Regulations, federal employees must have specific authorization to use "other than coach-class service on common carrier transportation." Secretary Ryan Zinke may have flown in first-class on various flights in 2017.

Ryan Zinke co-sponsored bipartisan legislation "to prevent members of Congress from using official funds for first-class airfare." The bill, introduced by Reps. Paul Gosar [R-Ariz.] and Raul Ruiz [D-Calif.] and "titled the Coach-Only Airfare for Capitol Hill [COACH] Act, would mandate that lawmakers and staffers can only fly first-class with personal funds. It would permit exceptions for first-class travel to accommodate disabilities or other medical needs." [Cristina Marcos, "Bill would bar lawmakers from flying first class," The Hill, 05/04/15]

Under the Federal Travel Regulations, federal employees "must have a specific authorization or prior approval for... Use of other than coach-class service on common carrier transportation." [Code of Federal Regulations, Part 301-2—General Rules]

GSA lists a few narrow exceptions that allow federal employees to take first class seats on flights; they are:

[F1] No coach-class accommodations are reasonably available. "Reasonably available" means available on an airline that is scheduled to leave within 24 hours of the traveler’s proposed departure time, or scheduled to arrive within 24 hours of the traveler’s proposed arrival time.

[F2] Use of first-class is necessary to accommodate a medical disability or other special need. See FTR 301—10.123 [a] [2] for additional criteria when using this exception.

[F3] Exceptional security circumstances require other than coach-class airline accommodations. Exceptional security circumstances are determined by your agency and should only be authorized up to the minimum other than coach-class accommodation necessary. These circumstances include but are not limited to: Use of coach-class accommodations would endanger life or government property; An agent on protective detail accompanying an individual authorized to use first-class accommodations; or A courier or control officer accompanying controlled pouches or packages.

[F4] Use of first-class is required because of agency mission, consistent with your agency’s internal procedures pursuant to FTR § 301—70.102[i]. [Air Travel, First Class Exception Codes, GSA, accessed 10/19/17]

Ryan Zinke may have sat in a first-class seat on his March 16, 2017 flight between Baltimore and Salt Lake City.

On March 16, 2017, Ryan Zinke traveled on Delta Flight 2560 from Baltimore-Washington International Airport [BWI] to Salt Lake International Airport [SLC]. According to publicly
available information, he sat in seat 4B. [Secretary Ryan Zinke's Trip Summaries, *Department of the Interior*, accessed 10/19/17]

Since June 19, 2017 only two aircraft have been used for Delta Flight 2560 [BWI > SLC], a Boeing 737-800 and a Boeing 737-900ER. On both aircraft, seat 4B is a first-class seat. Data prior to June 19, 2017 was not immediately available, according to publicly available information. [Flight Activity History for DAL2560, *FlightAware.com*, accessed 10/19/17 and Seat Map - Boeing 737-800 and Seat Map - Boeing 737-900ER, *Delta.com*, accessed 10/19/17]

Ryan Zinke appears to have sat in a first-class seat on his May 12, 2017 flight between San Diego and Salt Lake City.


Since June 19, 2017, a Boeing 737-900ER has been used for 117 out of 122 occasions for Delta Flight 2872 [SAN > SLC]; on this aircraft, seat 2C is a first-class seat. Data prior to June 19, 2017 was not immediately available. [Flight Activity for DAL2872, *FlightAware.com*, accessed 10/19/17 and Seat Map - Boeing 737-900ER, *Delta.com*, accessed 10/19/17]

Ryan Zinke appears to have sat in a first-class seat on his July 14, 2017 flight between Salt Lake City and Medford, OR.

On July 14, 2017, Ryan Zinke traveled on Delta Flight 4764 from Salt Lake International Airport [SLC] to Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport [MFR]. He sat in seat 4C, according to publicly available information. [Secretary Ryan Zinke's Trip Summaries, *US Department of the Interior*, accessed 10/19/17]


**Secretary Zinke went on taxpayer-funded helicopter rides to be able to attend Congressman Greg Gianforte's swearing-in ceremony and to get back to Washington, DC, in time to go "horseback riding with VP Pence."**

"Secretary Ryan Zinke spent more than $14,000 on government helicopters" in 2017 "to take himself and staff to and from official events near Washington, D.C., in order to accommodate his attendance at a swearing-in ceremony for his replacement in Congress and a horseback ride with Vice President Mike Pence." Travel logs "show Zinke using taxpayer-funded vehicles from the U.S. Park Police to help accommodate his political events schedule." [Ben Lefebvre, "Zinke booked government helicopters to attend D.C. events," *Politico*, 12/07/17]
**Instances of Wasting Taxpayer Resources**

Like former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Secretary Ryan Zinke has also taken security details on overseas trips. Administrator Pruitt spent over $35,000 for a weeklong official trip to Italy, while Secretary Zinke took a security detail on his personal two-week vacation to Greece and Turkey.

In summer 2017, when EPA Administrator Pruitt went on an official trip to Italy to meet with "environmental ministers from the world's top seven economies," he "spent more than $120,000 in public funds." The agency spent "nearly $90,000 spend for food, hotels, commercial airfare and a military jet used by Pruitt and nine EPA staff," and over $30,500 for Pruitt's security detail that came on the trip. The trip was a week long, taking place from June 5 to June 12, 2017. ["EPA head's Italy work trip cost taxpayers $120,000," CBS News, 03/20/18; Miranda Green and Timothy Cama, "Cost of Pruitt's Italy trip rises above $84,000," The Hill, 03/20/18]

In what was "a 'questionable' use of taxpayer resources," Interior "Secretary Ryan Zinke and his wife took a security detail on their vacation to Greece and Turkey" in 2017, even though "Zinke was not conducting government business during his two-week vacation" and only "the State Department and the Secret Service...have specific authority allowing them to provide security to executive branch officials, according to a Government Accountability Office report." The cost of his security detail and other security costs associated with the trip are still unknown, although Western Values Project has submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to determine how many taxpayer dollars Secretary Zinke spent on security costs for his vacation, which was one week longer than Administrator Pruitt's trip. [Ben Lefebvre, "Zinke brought security team to vacation in Turkey and Greece, records show," Politico, 03/21/18; Western Values Project FOIA to DOI re Zinke Vacation Security Cost, 04/02/18]

On their summer Mediterranean vacation, the same vacation on which they brought a taxpayer-funded security detail, Ryan and his wife stayed in luxury hotels in the Greek Islands and took sea jets to hop from one island to another.

An itinerary of the Zinkes' "Greece and Turkey travel" in August 2017 shows that Lola Zinke was in Florence, Italy from July 16 to August 2. Secretary Ryan Zinke and Lola Zinke met in Istanbul on August 5th. They stayed at the Four Seasons, Istanbul on the Bosphorus until August 7th, when they flew to Athens and had a Courtesy visit with the U.S. Embassy in Athens. [17-00707cd, 08/17]

They went from Athens to Mykonos, where they stayed in the Palladium Hotel until August 12th. The Palladium Hotel advertises itself as a "luxury five-star hotel in one of the most world famous islands." [Home, Hotel Palladium, accessed 05/09/18; 17-00707cd, 08/17]
On August 12th, the Zinkes took a "Sea Jet" to Paros, where they stayed at another luxury hotel, the Yria Boutique Hotel, until August 17th. On August 17th, the Zinkes took another "Sea Jet" to leave Paros. [Overview, Yria Hotel, accessed 05/09/18; 17-00707cd, 08/17]

The Zinkes stayed at the Four Seasons in Istanbul again, from August 17 to August 19, where they had a courtesy visit with the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul. They flew back to the US on August 19. [17-00707cd, 08/17]

The Zinkes took security detail on their trip. [Eli Watkins, "Interior docs show Zinke brought security detail on Mediterranean vacation," CNN, 03/21/18]

Incidentally, recently "released public records show that Zinke has taken...66 days of personal leave during his first year and a half on the job.”

“Recently released public records show that Zinke has taken...66 days of personal leave during his first year and a half on the job.” They “show that Zinke took 66 ‘personal days’ between March 2017 and August 2018, excluding weekends and federal holidays. That total exceeds the 39 annual days off federal senior executives would be given during that same period.” [Juliet Eilperin, Lisa Rein and Josh Dawsey, "Zinke is the Cabinet official most vulnerable to Democratic probe, White House fears," Washington Post, 11/09/18]

“Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke sought to skirt or alter department policies to justify his taxpayer-funded trips with his wife” and allow her to “snag ‘free trips’ at taxpayer expense,” the Interior Department inspector general said. Ryan Zinke has “also come under fire for... having his wife accompany him on official trips and her use of Interior staff to coordinate political and social events.” In addition, he “brought campaign contributors on [an] official boat tour of the Channel Islands in California” at taxpayer expense, the inspector general found. The inspector general “report also revealed that Interior spent $25,000 to send a security detail on vacation with Ryan and Lola Zinke when they traveled through Turkey” in 2017. “The IG...said its...report was delayed because Zinke had not adequately documented his official travel.”

“Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke sought to skirt or alter department policies to justify his taxpayer-funded trips with his wife, the agency’s inspector general said.” His “maneuvers included pressing Interior staffers to research whether his wife, Lola, could become a volunteer at the agency, a move the employees said was designed to enable her to travel with him at taxpayer expense.” He “was reportedly ‘upset’ his wife had to pay her own travel expenses, so he sought to make his wife a ‘volunteer’ at Interior so she could snag ‘free trips’ at taxpayer expense, the inspector general found.”

In addition, the inspector general report said Ryan Zinke “violated Interior policy by...[having] her travel with him in federal vehicles.” Ryan “Zinke had also come under fire for occasionally having his wife accompany him on official trips and her use of Interior staff to coordinate political and social events.”
“Zinke also brought campaign contributors on [an] official boat tour of the Channel Islands in California, the report found. Zinke acknowledged two donors to his congressional campaign were invited to participate in the April 2017 tour on a National Park Service boat as ‘stakeholders,’ but said he considered the fact that they’d held a fundraiser for him ‘immaterial.’ The secretary said they were subject matter experts, though a senior Channel Islands employee present for the trip told investigators ‘it was never clear what purpose’ their presence served. Zinke told the investigators he was sure their presence had been shared with [the] Ethics Office, but could not recall whether he personally informed anyone.”

“The report also said Zinke had his security detail drive a non-governmental employee to Ronald Reagan National Airport following a dinner in Washington, despite knowing beforehand they could not do so without him in the vehicle.”

“The report also revealed that Interior spent $25,000 to send a security detail on vacation with Ryan and Lola Zinke when they traveled through Turkey” in 2017.

“The IG...said its...report was delayed because Zinke had not adequately documented his official travel.” [Ben Lefebvre, Anthony Adragna, and Zack Colman, “Interior Dept. probe faults Zinke for travels with wife,” Politico, 10/18/18]

Secretary Zinke got $139,000 doors for his office.

The Interior Department is in the process of spending $138,670 "to upgrade three sets of double doors in the office of Secretary Ryan Zinke," "including two doors that open onto a corner balcony with a spectacular view of the Washington Monument and the National Mall," and a third that "opens to a hallway that features painted portraits of previous Interior secretaries." Design work on the project was approved in February 2018 "and installation is expected this summer." The "balcony doors were problematic early in Zinke's tenure." A March 2017 email from an Interior staffer suggested "replacing the locks" on the balcony doors to "ensure Zinke 'doesn't need a key from the inside and he doesn't get locked out when he goes outside.'" [Michael Biesecker and Matthew Daly, "Interior spending $139K to fix doors in Sec. Zinke's office," Associated Press, 03/09/18; Chris D'Angelo, "Interior Department Spending $138,670 To Replace Doors In Zinke's Office," Huffington Post, 03/08/18]

Lola Zinke "has frustrated [Interior] department staffers by saddling them with extra work" and causing "headaches" when she has used government resources for travel that does not appear to have been for government business.

"Secretary Ryan Zinke's wife has frustrated department staffers by saddling them with extra work when she traveled with him on official business," including work to "accommodate a last-minute request for her to join the secretary at an official dinner with Alaska's governor" that was part of "an official trip to Norway, Greenland and Alaska" that Lola Zinke went on and "caused some headaches by deciding to stay longer than expected." The Interior Department
said "Lola Zinke paid her own way," but "the records show Interior used staff time to coordinate some of her activities while traveling with her husband. And the trips gave her access to high-level politicians and GOP activists and donors who could benefit her as a political operator in her own right." [Ben Lefebvre, "'UGH!': Zinke's wife's travel caused headaches for Interior staff," Politico, 11/20/17]

In May 2017, the Zinkes "used a military aircraft to travel to Norway." From there they "flew on a military plane to Alaska for events organized by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee."

In May 2017, Ryan and Lola Zinke "used a military aircraft to travel to Norway" and from there "flew on a military plane to Alaska for events organized by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee." "Interior paid for Zinke and three Interior staff members to take the flight." Lola Zinke "reimbursed the government for the cost of her seat, Interior has said." However, according to Interior Department Spokeswoman Heather Swift, even though the "Zinkes paid for Lolita's share of the trip, the full cost" of her portion of the trip "was not immediately available." Interior said Lola Zinke "was one of many spouses invited on the trip to Alaska, Greenland and Norway, which was organized by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee" and that it was "'standard for those trips' to include spouses." [Esther Whieldon and Ben Lefebvre, "Zinke's travels: Ski resort and Alaskan steakhouse," Politico, 10/10/17; Ben Lefebvre, "Interior Secretary Zinke traveled on charter, military planes," Politico, 09/28/17; Rene Marsh and Gregory Wallace, "Group sues Interior Dept. for Lola Zinke travel records," CNN, 10/06/17]

The Interior Department has said that all of Ryan Zinke's travel "'was completely compliant with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.'" According to Interior Spokeswoman Heather Swift, "'The Interior Department under the Trump administration has always and will always work to ensure all officials follow appropriate rules and regulations when traveling, including seeking commercial options at all times appropriate and feasible, to ensure the efficient use of government resources.'" [Willa Frej, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Stuck Taxpayers For $12,000 Charter Flight," Huffington Post, 09/29/17; Rene Marsh and Gregory Wallace, "Group sues Interior Dept. for Lola Zinke travel records," CNN, 10/06/17]

Ryan Zinke has said that "criticism over his travel [is] 'complete and utter bullshit' and that 'all the trips went through absolute due diligence.'" [Anthony Smith, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel discrepancies raise questions about wife's role in department," Mic, 10/08/17]

Ryan Zinke's "use of taxpayer-funded charter planes" is being investigated by the Interior Department's Office of the Inspector General. [Ben Lefebvre, "Interior watchdog opens investigation into Zinke's travel," Politico, 10/02/17]

On May 27, 2017, Secretary Zinke and one of his staffers took charter flights in Alaska from Deadhorse to Alpine to Fairbanks. The cost of the charter flights were initially quoted at $14,750.
In May 2017, Secretary Zinke participated in the Arctic CODEL, organized by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, to Norway and Greenland with stops in Alaska. On May 27, "The Committee organized and utilized a charter in northern Alaska." The flight plan was "Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks." According to Interior, they took the charter flight because "Commercial flights were not an option" and "the Secretary and the staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget." [17-00707ce, 09/29/17]

In an email to Politico reporter Ben Lefebvre on September 28, 2017, Heather Swift said Interior was still "waiting on cost" of this trip. [17-00707ce, 09/28/17]

On May 1, 2017, the Charter company Ravn Alaska initially quoted the cost of this charter flight as being $14,750.00. [17-00707cd, 05/01/17]

According to the schedule, there appears to have been one security detail, and one other Interior staffer, Micah Chambers, on the charter flight with Secretary Zinke. [17-00707cd, 05/27/17]

Lola Zinke may have been "pushing" to take a MILAIR flight from Alaska back to Washington, DC, at the conclusion of her trip to Norway and Alaska.

On May 18, 2017, Caroline Boulton, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, wrote directly to Lola Zinke concerning the upcoming Norway/Alaska trip. Boulton wrote:

"Hey Lola,
I just heard back from the Senate staff coordinating the CODEL trip. On the MILAIR flight, they say:

"MILAIR return flight to DC may or may not happen but if it does the plane will likely leave Sunday morning around 9:00 am, but that could change. We only have one member returning to DC and DOD might pull the plane. To be determined at this point. In addition, DOD doesn’t like it when members try to get them to fly their spouses home on MILAIR without the member on the flight. It would be a safer bet to have Mrs. Zinke travel commercial if she is not staying in Alaska that week."

There’s a lot of ifs in that, so let me know if you want me to keep pushing on the MILAIR return flight (if DOD doesn’t pull the plane due to lack of passengers). On that Sunday (5/28) RZ will likely leave Fairbanks around 9:00 AM to drive to Byers Lake for the Memorial Day ceremony with Senator Murkowski.

Caroline"

[1+2 Release Full, 05/18/17]

Lola Zinke flew on MILAIR and various chartered aircraft while en route and traveling within Norway.

On the May 26, 2017 MILAIR flight from Andrews Air Force Base to Tromsø Airport [TOS] in Norway, Secretary Ryan Zinke and his wife were two of the 22 passengers – including five US Senators and four of their spouses – aboard the plane. [1+2 Release Full, 05/26/17-05/27/17]
This aircraft, with tail number 50932, is one of "four C-40Cs" assigned to "the Air Force Reserve Command's 932nd Airlift Wing." The "C-40C customers include members of the Cabinet and Congress" and are used to provide "safe, comfortable and reliable transportation for U.S. leaders to locations around the world." [Roger Schlueter, "VIP plane has been flying out of Scott since 2007," Belleville News-Democrat, 08/31/15; "C-40B/C," US Air Force, 06/04/03]

After arriving at Tromsø Airport [TOS], the delegation transferred "to [the] main terminal for private charter" to Hammerfest Airport [HFT]. The flight manifest included both Ryan and Lola Zinke as well as other Senators and spouses.

After their activities in Hammerfest, the delegation returned to Hammerfest Airport [HFT] and boarded a "chartered aircraft" to Trondheim [TRD]. The flight manifest included both Ryan and Lola Zinke as well as other Senators and spouses.

On May 27, 2017, the delegation left Trondheim and took MILAIR to Thule Air Base, Greenland. The manifest for this specific leg of the trip was not immediately available. [1+2 Release Full, 05/25/17-05/26/17]

While in Norway, Mrs. Zinke visited the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry. ["CROSS-CULTURAL FRIENDSHIP: Mrs. Lolita Zinke, wife of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, takes a selfie with Anders Oskal, Director of the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry," US Embassy Oslo Official Facebook Page, 05/28/17]

In the midst of the Norway/Alaska trip, the Zinkes decided to change their plans and have Lola continue traveling with her husband while he was in Alaska. Staff was not pleased with this development, remarking "UGH!" and noting that "everything was clicking... and all now shot to hell." The staff also raised ethical concerns about the arrangement.

On May 27, 2017, DOI staff member Russell Roddy sent an e-mail to Caroline Boulton and others saying: "...Mrs. Zinke said she was now going to head to Byers Lake and Anchorage with RKZ and fly out of Anchorage on Tuesday. UGH! We have all kinds of planes, trains and automobiles manifests to now scramble with."

Ten minutes later on May 27, 2017, Caroline Boulton responded to Mr. Roddy saying: "Lola is going to have to pay for her portion of any flight/helicopter/etc that she rides on. I know you know this, but can you just remind Micah to remind them?" [1+2 Release Full, 05/27/17]

Seven minutes later on May 27, 2017, Boulton e-mailed again. The first portion of the e-mail is redacted based on the "deliberative process" exemption of the Freedom of Information Act. The unredacted portion reads: "Given the holiday weekend, I'd be very surprised if they were able to turn around an answer on that in time especially given the numerous issues at play."
Minutes later, also on May 27, 2017, Roddy responded: "Trying to work on it without bringing any of that into play. We spent the whole day finalizing everything ... and everything was clicking ... and all now shot to hell." [1+2 Release Full, 05/27/17]

At 2:48am on Sunday May 28, 2017, Roddy once again responded to Boulton's e-mail concerning the "holiday weekend" noting that, "I suggested Aaron and I would take her to dinner but RKZ wants her to attend the dinner with the Governor and said they would pay for it." [1+2 Release Full, 05/28/17]

Later that day on May 28, 2017, Caroline Boulton sent an e-mail to the Department of the Interior Inspector General's Office, and others, saying: "Mrs. Zinke will now be staying in Alaska post- CODEL, a decision she and the Secretary made on the trip. The schedule has been adjusted to reflect that, including now driving from Denali as was originally the plan before the charter flight. My concern for now is primarily the Monday dinner with the governor's office, as paid for by the governor's office. The Secretary wants her to join and has said he will personally reimburse them for her meal. I know this is taking place tomorrow and we're not giving you much time." [1+2 Release Full, 05/28/17]

On May 29, 2017, Lola Zinke was once again listed on the vehicle manifest for the trip from the Secretary's hotel to a "Hike at Denali National Park & Preserve." [17 00707cd, 05/29/17]

The two extra days Lola Zinke would now be staying for included, among other things: a driving tour and hike in Denali National Park [05/29]; a dinner with Alaska Governor Bill Walker [05/29]; a meeting with US Senator Dan Sullivan [05/30]; and an "Alaska Chamber of Commerce Reception with [the] Alaska Congressional Delegation [05/30]. [17 00707cd, 05/29/17]

After Lola Zinke decided to stay in Alaska "post-CODEL," Secretary Ryan Zinke "scrapped" his plans to visit Denali National Park in favor of "a more leisure day."

Lola Zinke decided to stay in Alaska "post-CODEL," a "decision she and the Secretary made on the trip." [17-00707cd, 05/28/17]

Possibly as a result of Mrs. Zinke's staying in Alaska, Secretary Zinke "scrapped" his plans to visit Denali National Park while was on his Alaska trip. The Denali plans were "scrapped for a more leisure day." This involved canceling a one-on-one interview. [17-00707cd, 05/28/17]

**Other Travel**

Secretary Ryan Zinke, in the first six months of 2017, travelled to Montana on at least four occasions. On his first trip, his calendar described his four-day trip as "personal travel." On his second trip, the only event on his calendar was a commencement speech at Montana State University. On his third trip, he spent two days in Billings with Mike Pence, followed by two days with no events on his calendar. On his fourth trip, Secretary Zinke went to Whitefish for two days for the Western Governors' Association meeting.
Ryan Zinke was on a work trip in California from April 13, 2017 to April 20, 2017. On Thursday, April 20, 2017, his calendar reads "All day Personal Travel: Montana." No further details are given. On April 21, 2017, April 22, 2017, April 23, 2017, his calendar also says, "All day Personal Travel: Montana" with no further details. There is a flight on his calendar from Glacier National Park Airport [FCA] to the Baltimore-Washington International Airport [BWI]; the flight began on 07:55pm on Sunday, April 23, 2017 and ended at 5:00am on Monday, April 24, 2017. No further details on the flight are given. [Ryan Zinke April 2017 Calendar, Department of Interior, accessed 12/10/18]

Ryan Zinke flew to Montana on May 5, 2017. His flight left Baltimore-Washington International Airport [BWI] at 05:27pm on Friday, May 5 and he landed in Great Falls Airport [GTF] at 12:11am on Saturday, May 6. No further details on his flight are given. On May 6, his schedule says "All day Havre, MT" and that day, from 12pm to 2pm, he gave the MSU-Northern Commencement Address. Zinke went on a work trip to Utah the next day, Sunday, May 7, 2017. [Ryan Zinke May 2017 Calendar, Department of Interior, accessed 12/10/18]

After his trip in Utah and California, Ryan Zinke's calendar read "All day Billings with VPOTUS" on both Friday May 12, 2017 and Saturday May 13, 2017, and in the event description his calendar said his time with the Vice President would last until Sunday, May 14, 2017. There was no information for Monday, May 15, 2017 listed on Zinke's calendar. On Tuesday, May 16, 2017, he flew from Glacier National Park Airport [FCA] to Denver [DEN], and then from Denver to Dulles Airport [IAD], his first flight left FCA at 08:45am and arrived in Denver at 11:04am and his second flight arrived at Dulles at 03:04pm. No further details on his flights were given. [Ryan Zinke May 2017 Calendar, Department of Interior, accessed 12/10/18]

On Tuesday, June 27, 2017, Zinke's calendar said "All day Whitefish, MT for WGA." The description said the event would last until Wednesday, June 28, 2017. There was no information on Zinke's calendar on when he either flew into or flew out of Whitefish, but before the event he had been in Las Vegas on Monday, June 26, 2017, and was back in DC on Thursday, June 29, 2017. [Ryan Zinke June 2017 Calendar, Department of Interior, accessed 12/10/18]

Secretary Ryan Zinke greeted Vice President Mike Pence when he arrived at the Billings Airport in May 2017. After a change in Secretary Zinke's schedule he was able to spend taxpayer money on his overnight stay at the DoubleTree in Billings. He was originally scheduled to pay for his hotel personally but because his schedule changed and he attended "official events," the Department of the Interior paid the bill. Although he attended some official events during the day, Secretary Zinke attended a campaign rally for Greg Gianforte before staying at the DoubleTree Hotel, and the next day he went to a Montana Republican rally before spending the rest of his weekend at his home in Whitefish.

On May 12, 2017, during his trip to Montana, Secretary Ryan Zinke waited at the Billings Logan International Airport to welcome Vice President Mike Pence. In addition to Secretary Zinke,
Vice President Pence was met at the airport by David Jeremiah, his wife Donna Jeremiah, and Lance Lannings.

David Jeremiah is a senior pastor at Shadow Mountain Community Church, a megachurch in Southern California, and hosts "radio and television ministries... across the United States and internationally." He also served on Donald Trump's Evangelical Executive Advisory Board during Trump's 2016 campaign. Lance Lanning runs Provision International, a Christian charity that does international work based in Billings. [17-00707cd, 05/12/17; "Know Your Southern Baptists: David Jeremiah," The Gospel Coalition, 11/15/13; Jack Jenkins, "Meet Donald Trump's New Evangelical Advisory Board," ThinkProgress, 06/22/16; What We Do, Provision International, accessed 05/09/18]

On Friday, May 12, 2017, at 10:53, Secretary Zinke's scheduler, Caroline Boulton, emailed Secretary Zinke his schedule for the weekend. On this version of the schedule, Secretary Zinke was staying at the Hampton Inn Butte in Butte, Montana. This version of the schedule said "Note: paying for personally." [17-00707cd, 05/12/17]

Several hours later, at 13:12 [1:12pm] Caroline Boulton emailed Secretary Zinke again to tell him "Updated. DOI can pay for your hotel tonight in Billings since you did official events here today." The hotel information was updated—instead of staying in Butte, Secretary Zinke was now staying at the DoubleTree in Billings, Montana. [17-00707cd, 05/12/17]

It appears that the official events Secretary Zinke participated in that day were a "Horseback Tour of Westmoreland Coal Company Property Led by Tribal Leaders" and a "Listening Session With Tribal Leaders & Energy Producers." Vice President Mike Pence was with Secretary Zinke at both these events.

Secretary Zinke and Vice President Pence ended the night with a rally for then-congressional candidate Greg Gianforte.

Secretary Zinke stayed at the DoubleTree hotel in Billings, Montana.

The following morning, Secretary Zinke went to a GOTV Event with the Montana GOP, and was able to spend his Saturday night and Sunday at his home in Whitefish. [17-00707cd, 05/12/17-05/13/17]

When CNN reporter Rene Marsh emailed Interior Press Secretary Heather Swift to try to get information about Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel habits, Swift admonished Marsh for asking the question because she had already "received this inquiry from several people at CNN." Marsh retorted that her colleagues had never received a response on this question from Interior. Heather Swift contacted other reporters at CNN to try to get the story killed. In a private email to a co-worker, Heather Swift called Rene Marsh a "fucking idiot."
On September 22, 2017, CNN correspondent Rene Marsh emailed Heather Swift asking about Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel habits. She wrote, "CNN is looking to get information on Zinke's travel information. When he travels by plane does he always fly commercial? Private?"

Swift responded, "Rene can you please coordinate with your colleagues? I've received this inquiry from several people at CNN."

After checking with her colleagues, Marsh followed up several days later, saying "I checked in with my colleagues and they say they never received a response." [17-00707ce, 09/28/17]

In October 2017, CNN correspondent Rene Marsh was working on a story on Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel and on Lola Zinke's role at the Interior Department. [17-00707, Pages 6604-6605]

Heather Swift went to Christie Johnson at CNN to try to kill the story, writing: "One of your colleagues [Rene Marsh] is about to embarrass themselves by running a really nasty and factually incorrect story about Mrs. Zinke." Swift followed up in a second email, "Rene Marsh is working on a story though if you could possibly put it on hold until we talk that would be appreciated." She added, "Mrs. Zinke got a VM." Johnson told Swift she had "raised" Swift's concerns with Marsh's boss. [17-00707ce, 10/06/17]

Heather Swift stalled on responding for four days and still didn't answer all of Rene Marsh's questions – Marsh wrote, "We have repeatedly asked the press office for answers to the below questions and for 4 days now we have been told you are working on it and today we've received no response at all." [17-00707ce, 10/06/17]

On October 7, 2017, following CNN reporter Rene Marsh repeatedly attempting to get Heather Swift to explain Ryan Zinke's use of taxpayer-funded charter and military planes and his mixing of official trips with political appearances, Swift privately emailed Interior's Deputy Director of Communications Russell Newell, saying "Rene [Marsh] is a fucking idiot." Newell responded, "She sounds like one." [17-07007ce, 10/07/17; Lisa Rein, Washington Post, "Federal watchdog opens probe into travel by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke," 10/02/17]

**One of Secretary Ryan Zinke's "Special Assistants" at the Department of the Interior helped facilitate Lola Zinke's guest list and their attendance at a political event in California.**

On Monday, April 17, 2017, Ryan Zinke was a guest speaker at the Reagan Ranch Center in Santa Barbara, where he spoke "before a crowd of local stakeholders and supporters of Young America's Foundation." The Young America's Foundation describes itself as the "principal outreach organization of the Conservative Movement." [Beth Farnsworth, "U.S. Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke Travels to Santa Barbara," KEYT.com, 04/17/17; Libertas, Young America Foundation, Volume 38, No. 1; "About," Young America's Foundation, accessed 11/16/17]

Prior to his appearance at the event, Special Assistant to the Secretary Caroline Boulton forwarded "Lola's guest list" to a staffer with the Young America's Foundation in Santa Barbara,
California. Her guest list is redacted based on the "personal privacy" exemption in the Freedom of Information Act, but Boulton notes that Lola was "expecting some of them to bring plus ones." [1+2 Release Full, 04/07/17]

**Lola Zinke, in the first days of Ryan Zinke's tenure as Interior Secretary, accompanied him to meet various Department of the Interior employees.**

The Office of Surface Mining, on March 2, 2017, tweeted a photo of Ryan and Lola Zinke being "welcome[d]" by OSMRE employees to the Interior Department:

[Tweet by Office of Surface Mining, accessed 04/18/17]

According to a tweet from Associated Press reporter Matthew Daly, on March 3, 2017, Lola Zinke accompanied Ryan Zinke to "greet DOI employees."

[Tweet by Matthew Daly, accessed 04/18/17]

On March 3, 2017, Ryan Zinke introduced Lola Zinke to a large room of Interior Department employees. ["Secretary Zinke Greets Employees on Interior's Birthday," Department of the Interior, 03/04/17]
Secretary Ryan Zinke, on March 10, 2017, tweeted photos of a tribal blessing ceremony from Blackfeet Nation. Lola Zinke appeared to be sitting next to him.

On March 10, 2017, it appears that Lola Zinke was sitting next to Ryan Zinke when he received a tribal blessing ceremony from Blackfeet Nation.

[Tweet by Secretary Ryan Zinke, accessed 04/18/17]

On March 29, 2017, Lola Zinke attended Ryan Zinke's signing of two secretarial orders that advanced coal, oil, and gas development on federal lands. It appears that Lola Zinke was the only person attending, besides Ryan Zinke, who was not a member of Congress.

Based on a tweet from Ryan Zinke's official account, on March 29, 2017, Lola Zinke attended the signing of two secretarial orders that advanced coal, oil and gas development on federal
lands. Lola Zinke appears to be the only person who attended the signing, besides Zinke himself, who was not a member of Congress.

[Tweet by Secretary Ryan Zinke, accessed 04/18/17]

On April 11, 2017, Ryan Zinke's official account tweeted a photo of Lola and Ryan Zinke and their dog Ragnar in an Interior Department building.

On April 11, 2017, Ryan Zinke's official account tweeted "Happy #nationalpetday from Lola, Ragnar and me. Only 25 days til #DoggieDay at @Interior" The photo was taken it what appears to be an Interior Department building.

[Tweet by Secretary Ryan Zinke, accessed 04/18/17]

Lola Zinke, on April 13, 2017, "sat in" on Secretary Ryan Zinke's "meeting in California with Gov. Jerry Brown and in discussions with regional directors of FWS, USGS, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Indian Affairs." According to an Interior Department spokesperson, she was "not acting in an official capacity."
Lola Zinke, on April 13, 2017, "sat in" on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "meeting in California with Gov. Jerry Brown and in discussions with regional directors of FWS, USGS, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Indian Affairs." However Interior spokeswoman Megan Bloomgren said that Lola Zinke was "not acting in an official capacity" and that she "paid for her own flight out and is staying with her mother who leaves nearby in the state." [Anthony Adragna, "Unfilled PHMSA slots imperil pipeline projects," Politico, 04/14/17]

On April 13, 2017, Ryan Zinke tweeted the following photo of his meeting with regional directors of USGS, USFWS, BLM, US Bureau of Reclamation and Indian Affairs, with Lola Zinke sitting to his right:

[Tweet by Secretary Ryan Zinke, accessed 04/18/17]

Ryan Zinke, on April 13, 2017, tweeted the following photo of Lola Zinke feeding Jerry Brown's dog during their meeting with Brown:
Lola Zinke, on April 13, 2017, tweeted the same photo of herself feeding Jerry Brown's dog, with the caption, "CA's First dog, Calusa Brown. Dogs make people happy, treats make dogs happy."

Federal employees, including at least one federal employee who appears to work for the Department of the Interior, have criticized Lola Zinke for attending Department of the Interior
meetings, since she is not an employee. On March 21, 2017, a user with the Twitter handle "SciencesReal" claimed that Secretary "Zinke has his wife come to work with him and wants DOI dog friendly so she can bring her dog."

A twitter account called "SciencesReal," that appears to be run by a Department of Interior employee, and a twitter account called "Fed In Hell," who in his biography describes himself as a "federal scientist," had a twitter conversation on March 21, 2017, in which they were discussing employees and Trump appointees at their respective agencies. SciencesReal wrote, "We have Zinke, a few Bush folks and Zinke has his wife come to work with him and wants DOI dog friendly so she can bring her dog." Fed In Hell replied "WTF?" to which SciencesReal replied "Not joking and attends meetings! WTF is right." Fed In Hell replied "Is she an employee? What does she do at these meetings?" to which Science Is Real replied "No she is not, maybe she gets the same clearance as Ivanka?"

[Tweet by SciencesReal, accessed 04/18/17]

In a separate tweet on March 23, 2017, Fed In Hell wrote "@scienceisreal13 also says [Zinke's] wife Lola attends staff meetings. DOI morale is low bcz of Bundy et al., Congress and now politbureau, #Zinke."
Lola Zinke accompanied Secretary Ryan Zinke on an official trip to Antietam National Battlefield.

On July 5, 2017, Lola Zinke's name appeared in the vehicle manifests for an official trip Secretary Zinke took to Antietam National Battlefield. The Zinkes drove from DC to Antietam and back to Interior headquarters in DC in the same day.  

Lola Zinke was invited to, but decided not to attend, "an important ethics briefing for all Cabinet spouses and significant others" organized by the White House.

Lola Zinke wrote to Caroline Boulton, Secretary Zinke's scheduler, saying she would "not be in town" on October 20, 2017, the date of the ethics training. She continued, "Last time I went to ethics briefing, I was held outside gate for 45 min and missed most of briefing. That was after I bought my own cross country airline ticket."

Part of the briefing was regarding "cross-cultural literacy." Lola Zinke commented to Caroline Boulton, "Also, what the heck is cross cultural literacy???"  

VIP Treatment

According to a news story with the headline, "A perk for friends of the Zinkes: Guided tours through National Park Service sites," numerous "VIP tours of National Park Service sites, some at the height of the tourist season, came at the request of either Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke or his wife, Lola, according to records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. Several excursions were scheduled specifically for friends and acquaintances," including tours of places "where the public is not allowed."
According to a news story with the headline, "A perk for friends of the Zinkes: Guided tours through National Park Service sites," numerous "VIP tours of National Park Service sites, some at the height of the tourist season, came at the request of either Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke or his wife, Lola, according to records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. Several excursions were scheduled specifically for friends and acquaintances."

These included "a personalized visit to Joshua Tree National Park. A spin through the West Wing, guided by White House staffers. And a trip to the top of the Lincoln Memorial, which is closed to the public."

"The Zinkes have arranged for acquaintances and administration officials to get special tours of the Lincoln Memorial, including areas where the public is not allowed. At taxpayer expense, they took a yacht broker — who once sold Lola Zinke a boat — on a work trip to California's Channel Islands National Park. An aide said the secretary described the man as one of three guests who were 'subject matter experts' and could offer 'personal testimony' about the area."

"Jon Jorgenson, the yacht broker involved in Lola Zinke's boat purchase, accompanied her and the secretary on an official tour of the Channel Islands in April 2017. Asked to clarify why Jorgenson should participate in the trip, Interior's scheduling director told department lawyers that he could 'offer personal testimony to help the Secretary understand issues facing the islands.'"

Don Hellmann, who headed the Park Service's office for legislative and congressional affairs for eight of his 22 years with the agency, said in an interview that Zinke and his aides appear to be devoting a disproportionate amount of time to arranging VIP tours. [Juliet Eilperin, "A perk for friends of the Zinkes: Guided tours through National Park Service sites," Washington Post, 05/18/18]

Secretary Ryan Zinke went on a tour of Santa Cruz Island and Santa Rosa Island in April 2017. Nita Vail, and her friends and family, Tony Brown, Tim Vail, and Will Woolley, were Secretary Zinke's guests on this trip. Nita Vail, Tim Vail, and Will Woolley are all descendants of the ranching family that used to own Santa Rosa Island, which is now part of Channel Islands National Park. Nita Vail and Tony Brown appear to be friends of the Zinkes. Tony Brown is described in the manifest as Secretary Zinke's "hunting buddy." The two hosted a fund-raiser for Ryan Zinke in 2014 when he was running for Congress and donated $250 to his congressional campaign that year. "At taxpayer expense," the Zinkes took their yacht broker on this trip.

In April 2017, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visited Channel Islands National Park in Southern California. Secretary Zinke visited Santa Cruz Island on April 17, 2017, and Santa Rosa Island on April 18, 2017. Various guests of the Office of the Interior Secretary participated in the trip and were listed in the boat manifests for the Ocean Ranger, the boat that was used to visit the islands. [17-00659ca, 04/17/17]
Two of the Office of the Interior Secretary’s guests listed on the boat manifests for the Ocean Ranger on April 17, and April 18, 2017 were Nita Vail and Tony Brown. [17-00707cb [NPS attachments], 04/17/17; "February 26th Fundraiser for Navy Seal Ryan Zinke in Carpinteria," Ventura County Tea Party, accessed 01/03/18]

Nita Vail is Chief Executive Officer of the California Rangeland Trust, a non-profit organization founded by cattleman and cattlwomen "to conserve the open space, natural habitat and stewardship provided by California's ranches," and that has helped permanently protect hundreds of thousands of acres of privately-owned rangeland. Vail is from the ranching family that used to own Santa Rosa Island, which became part of the Channel Islands National Park in 1986. [Steve Chawkins, "Family reluctantly gives up its hold on Santa Rosa Island," Los Angeles Times, 11/28/11; "About Us," California Rangeland Trust, accessed 01/03/18; "Nita Vail," California Rangeland Trust, accessed 01/03/18]

According to the boat manifest for the Ocean Ranger, two of the other guests aboard the Ocean Ranger on April 18, 2017 were Tim Vail and Will Woolley. Nita Vail, Tim Vail, and Will Woolley are all cousins, and are all descendants of the ranching family that used to own Santa Rosa Island. [17-00707cb [NPS attachments], 04/18/17; Felicity Barringer, "A Multipronged Tussle Over the Fate of Herds Living in an Island Park," New York Times, 10/09/06]

In the boat manifests, Tim Vail is described as a veterinarian, and Will Woolley is described as "Rancher, Nita and Tim’s cousin."

"Yacht broker" Jon Jorgeson was also listed as a guest on the April 17, 2017 and April 18, 2017 manifests. [17-00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/18/17]

"At taxpayer expense," the Zinkes "took a yacht broker — who once sold Lola Zinke a boat — on a work trip to California’s Channel Islands National Park."

"Jon Jorgenson, the yacht broker involved in Lola Zinke's boat purchase, accompanied her and the secretary on an official tour of the Channel Islands in April 2017." [Juliet Eilperin, "A perk for friends of the Zinkes: Guided tours through National Park Service sites," The Washington Post, 05/18/18]

Tony Brown is described as "Orchard Manager/Hunting Buddy" in the Channel Islands National Park Boast Manifest for the Ocean Ranger. [17-00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/18/17]

On February 26, 2014, Nita Vail and Tony Brown hosted a political fundraiser for Ryan Zinke when he was running for Congress. The fundraiser consisted of a 5pm meet and greet and 6pm BBQ Dinner and took place in Carpinteria, California. ["February 26th Fundraiser for Navy Seal Ryan Zinke in Carpinteria," Ventura County Tea Party]

Nita Vail, in March 2014, donated $250 to Ryan Zinke's congressional campaign. [Political MoneyLine Search for Nita Vail, CQ, accessed 01/03/18]
On April 4, 2017, Secretary Zinke's scheduler, Caroline Boulton, emailed other Interior staff organizing the Channel Islands National Park trip. Boulton wrote that Secretary Zinke's "ideal schedule [as confirmed with him yesterday]," included "4/17-4/18 Channel Islands: Santa Cruz & Santa Rosa Discuss ranching on the islands, tour." [17-00707cb [NPS attachments], 04/04/17]

Another version of Secretary Zinke's itinerary included "April 17 - 18 - Channel Islands National Park [Discuss ranching on the islands, tour]." On April 17, 2018, one of the items included for the Santa Rosa Island agenda was "Historic Ranch - Discuss adaptive reuse of historic ranch structures, includes discussion on the GMP Santa Rosa." [17-00707cb [NPS attachments], Date Unclear]

After Secretary Zinke's visit, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau wrote to another NPS staffer about Secretary Zinke's visit, saying: "Secretary Zinke shared some of his priorities with park staff including building public trust, restructuring the department workforce for efficiency, improved operations for frontline staff, and increasing investments in deferred maintenance. During his briefing with park staff on Santa Rosa Island he said that he would like to highlight the significant ranching heritage on the island through a working demonstration ranch. At this point it is not clear how this idea will be implemented." [17-00707cb [NPS attachments], Date Unclear]

Nita Vail appears to have been one of the first Secretary's guests selected for the Santa Barbara trip. She and Lola Zinke were confirmed before any of the Secretary's other guests were selected. In an April 7, 2017 email to other NPS staff, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau relayed a conversation he had had with Interior advance staffer Rusty Roddy about Secretary Zinke's guests for the trip. Galipeau wrote in his email to other NPS staff, "Not sure of total guests but definitely Nita Vail and Mrs. ZINKE." [17-00707cb [NPS attachments], 04/19/17]

According to Secretary Zinke's official travel schedule, on the boat trip to Santa Rosa Island the morning of April 18, 2017, Secretary Zinke had a "Vail Family meeting" that "Nita, Tim and Will" participated in. The subject of the meeting is not listed on the travel schedule. [17-00659ca, 04/18/17]

According to Secretary Zinke's official travel schedule, during the visit to Santa Rosa Island on April 18, 2017, Nita Vail led the tour of the "Walk to Historic Ranch," while Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau discussed the ranch rehabilitation project. Galipeau had previously requested that Vail be the one to lead the tour. On April 13, 2017, Galipeau emailed the Interior staff coordinating the Zinkes' trip and responsible for coordinating Secretary Zinke's guests. Galipeau wrote that if Nita Vail was "coming it would be best to have Nita give the Ranch tour. She does an excellent job." [17-00707cb [NPS attachments], 04/13/17; 17-00659ca, 04/17/17]
According to the "Vehicle Assignments for Secretary's Visit" for the April 17, 2017 and April 18, 2017 trips, on both days Nita Vail was in the same vehicle as Ryan and Lola Zinke. On April 18, Tim Vail, Will Woolley, and Tony Brown were in the Secretary’s Vehicle as well. [17-00707cb [NPS attachments], 04/17/17]

Three National Park Service staffers were "bumped" from the abovementioned Channel Islands National Park trip because Secretary Ryan Zinke wanted to include additional guests. One of the guests added by Secretary Zinke’s office instead of the NPS staffers was jelly maker Suze McClellan, who was also identified by Interior staff as having an "ethical dilemma" but appears to have gone on the trip anyway. Suze McClellan is identified as a "personnel friend" of Tony Brown's.

On April 14, 2017, just days before the trip, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau emailed National Park Service employees Laura Kim, Kenneth Convery, and Travis Poulson an email titled "you have been bumped." Galipeau wrote, "Sorry, but the Secretary wanted to include some additional guests so unfortunately I have had to remove you from the Monday manifest." [17-00707, 04/14/17]

After the National Park Service staffers were bumped from the manifest, there was a "last minute addition" on April 17, 2017 at 6:59pm. Interior staffer Wadi Yakhour asked that Santa Barbara jelly maker Suze McClellan be added to the manifest. [17-00707, 04/17/17]

Barely two hours later, at 8:41pm, Yakhour sent another email to NPS staffer Yvonne Menard about McClellan, writing, "I'm so sorry about the inconsistency but there was an ethical dilemma with Suze and now she needs to be taken off the manifest."

It appears as if McClellan still went on the trip. On June 20, 2017, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau sent Suze McClellan an invoice for the "round trip transportation on the Ocean Ranger from Santa Barbara Harbor to Santa Rosa Island." [17-00707, 06/20/17; Jenn Kennedy, "The Working Life: Suze McClellan's Ojai Jalapeño Jelly a Hot Commodity," Santa Barbara Noozhawk, 07/29/11; Ojai Jelly, accessed 03/08/18; "Add Boat Tour In Channel Islands To Travel Of Secretary Zinke Under Scrutiny," National Parks Traveler, 10/04/17]

On the boat manifest, Suze McClellan is listed as a "personnel friend of Tony's." They are listed as 8.a. and 8.b on the manifest. [17-00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/18/17]

On May 4, 2017, Interior staffer Russell Roddy emailed Jon Jorgensen to ask if Jon had "contact information for Tony Brown’s girlfriend who went on the boat to Santa Rosa. Since she was brought as a guest of a subject area expert, we will have to send her an invoice for her travel on the boat." [17-00707cd, 05/04/17]
According to the website for company Chandlery Yacht Sales, a Santa Barbara yacht company, Jon Jorgensen is a yacht dealer. ["Our Amazing Crew," Chandlery Yacht sales, accessed 04/28/18]

Two other guests on the trip were fishermen Jeff Maasen and Jason Robinson. In an email, a Nature Conservancy scientist described Robinson as being one of "the most anti-Conservation fishermen I know" and as being "anti government in general." A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] official said in an email, "Maasen can be a bit of a conspiracy believer and Robinson has the MPA poaching reputation, which is not good," and warned that there may be "a perception problem" for Secretary Zinke "to be associating with those guys on board."

Two other guests on the Channel Islands trip were Jeff Maasen and Jason Robinson. Maasen was described as a "local urchin fisherman." According to Jono Wilson, Lead Fisheries Scientist at the Nature Conservancy, "Jason Robinson and his brother Shane... are possibly the most anti-Conservation fishermen I know.. they are strongly opposed to any NGO interventions and from what I've heard are anti government in general. They are opposed to science because they assume it is all towards increased regulation. They think TNC ruined the ground fish fishery through our involvement. They used to find my fish tags and throw them away and tell people about it. Frankly, I'm surprised he will be joining the trip." [LinkedIn Profile for Jono Wilson, accessed 05/04/18; 17-00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/16/17]

Eamon O'Byrne, Director of the California Islands Project for the Nature Conservancy, wrote of the guest list, "we have quite a crew of conservation opponents showing up." [17-00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/14/17]

In an email on April 14, 2017, Sean Hastings of NOAA explained to NPS and NOAA staff, "Apparently there was an A list of fishermen recommended who are not available including those in leadership positions like Chris Voss and Jim Colomy whom we work with and would have recommended. So the two selected are primarily two that are available if there is still space for them. Maasen can be a bit of a conspiracy believer and Robinson has the MPA poaching reputation, which is not good, and may be more of a perception problem for the secretary to be associating with those guys on board." [17-00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/15/17]

On the same trip, before going to the Channel Islands, Secretary Ryan Zinke met with former Congressman Bob Lagomarsino and Santa Barbara consultant Jim Youngson. Later Lola Zinke requested Secretary Zinke's staff send a copy of Secretary Zinke's book to former Congressman Bob Lagomarsino.

On April 20, 2017, Santa Barbara consultant Jim Youngson emailed Megan Bloomgren, who was Secretary Zinke's Acting Deputy Chief of Staff and Communications Director at the time. Youngson had participated in Secretary Ryan Zinke's meeting with former Congressman Bob Lagomarsino the week prior. Youngson said to Bloomgren, "So, I would love some insight and
advice from you. I like Ryan, and I've always loved Interior issues, and I'm interested in getting more involved. So I submitted the attached via the Trump portal, and I also personally gave a copy to Ryan last weekend. But you are an outside consultant, like I am [like my career, but feel a bit of the call to duty]. I'd appreciate your perspective on the reality of working with Interior, either full time or a part-time situation, especially on the west coast. I'm heading out for a short vacation Friday morning, returning next Tuesday. Could we chat via phone sometime later next week?" He sent Bloomgren a copy of his application. [17-00707cd, 04/20/17]

It is unclear if Bloomgren responded, as Youngson emailed her again on May 5, 2017, saying "Hello again, Meg. Not sure if you received this prior note, see below..." [17-00707cd, 05/05/17]

In his application that he sent to the White House, which he forwarded to Bloomgren, Jim Youngson said he wanted to "express [his] interest in assisting Secretary Zinke at the Department of the Interior." Youngson said he "subscribe[d] to the more level headed approaches that President Trump and Secretary Zinke espouse" and he "offer[ed] his services if you feel they can be of value in some capacity." Youngson's resume is also included, but has been completely redacted. [17-00707cd, 03/31/17]

According to his LinkedIn, Jim Youngson is the Founder & President of Terrain Consulting, which is "a public affairs consultancy that specializes in land use entitlement, governmental and policy issues." Youngson lives in Santa Barbara. [LinkedIn Profile for Jim Youngson, accessed 04/09/18]

Jim Youngson was previously a spokesperson for the Vail family. [Paul McHugh, "While House members bicker, families feel 'caught in middle,'" SFGate, 06/08/06]

Lola Zinke requested that Secretary Zinke's scheduler Caroline Boulton send "a copy of Z's book" to "the Congressman." The Congressman referred to appears to be former Congressman Bob Lagomarsino, who Secretary Zinke met with during his April 2017 trip to California. Lagomarsino had requested one of Secretary Zinke's signed autobiographies. [17-00707cd, 04/21/17; 17-07007cd, 05/01/17]

Secretary Ryan Zinke's speech at a political event likely forced National Park Service staff to make operational changes for his visit to Channel Islands National Park and required nearly $2,000 in extra government expenses to facilitate. Additionally, Secretary Zinke was late in paying the fee for his wife and aunt to accompany him on the trip, so interest accrued.

In April of 2017, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke visited Channel Islands National Park in southern California. The original itinerary for the Channel Islands visit proposed the Secretary's party depart from Ventura Harbor aboard the Ocean Ranger. [17 00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/07/17]

However, on April 7, 2017, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau alerted his team that "[the Secretary] wants to be transported in and out of Santa Barbara.
Feels NPS and concession not flexible enough. Coordinating with NOAA at WASO level to use the sanctuary vessel moored in Santa Barbara. I urge against it." [17 00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/07/17]

This shift to departing from Santa Barbara was likely due to the fact that the Zinkes had planned to spend the weekend there and because on Monday, April 17, Ryan Zinke spoke at a "town hall forum" for the Young America Foundation, at the Reagan Ranch, a facility in Santa Barbara. [Ben Lefebvre, "UGH!: Zinke's wife's travel caused headaches for Interior staff," Politico, 11/20/17]

In fact, on the same day Russell Galipeau alerted his staff to the shift to Santa Barbara, Ryan Zinke's Special Assistant Caroline Boulton was making guest list arrangements on behalf of Mrs. Lola Zinke with the Reagan Ranch. [1+2 Release Full, 04/07/17]

Ultimately, despite scheduling a trip to Ventura on Saturday, April 16 to meet with former Congressman Bob Lagomarsino, the Zinkes sailed from Santa Barbara Harbor on the Ocean Ranger on both Monday, April 17 and Tuesday April 18. [1+2 Release Full, 04/17/17 – 04/18/17]

Because the boat departed from Santa Barbara instead of Ventura, on April 14, 2017, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau gave multiple updates on important changes.

First, the boat would now have to leave Ventura Harbor at 7:30am to arrive at Santa Barbara Harbor in time to depart at 9:30am to Santa Rosa Island. [17 00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/14/17]

Second, due to the extra time to get to and from Santa Barbara Harbor, the boat crew would need to be paid three hours of overtime each, adding $300 to the cost, and add fuel for an additional eight hours of running time at a price of $1,440 on top of the standard operating costs for the boat. [17 00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/14/17]

Because Ryan Zinke's Aunt, Beatrice Walder, and his wife, Lola Zinke, were also passengers on the boat, on April 25, 2017 a "Bill for Collection" was sent to Ryan Zinke for $142.08. [17 00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/25/17]

As of June 14, 2017, Ryan Zinke had not paid this bill, and $10.14 in interest and fees had been assessed on top of the original charge.

Jennifer Summerell, a fiscal technician at NPS, wrote on June 14 that "The bill is past due so interest fees and admin fees are accruing" and the new total was $152.22. The original bill had been sent on April 25, 2017. [17 00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/25/17]

Interior Press Secretary Heather Swift made the National Park Service wait to release Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] results related to Secretary Zinke's visit to Channel Islands
National Park until Interior Communications Director Laura Rigas could sign off on their release.

Interior Press Secretary Heather Swift, on July 13, 2017, asked the National Park Service to hold on releasing the results of a FOIA to the group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility until Interior Communications Director Laura Rigas could sign off. The records of the FOIA request were "related to the Secretary's visit to Channel Islands NP." The records were already overdue at the time that Swift asked NPS to hold on releasing them. [17 00707cb (NPS Attachments), 04/25/17]

On May 17, 2017, Elaine Hackett, the congressional liaison for the National Park Service, on behalf of Lola Zinke, requested and was able to obtain a next-day personal tour of Joshua Tree National Park for Lola Zinke's "two friends from England," Duncan Westley and Jon Bodenham.

On May 17, 2017, Elaine Hackett, the congressional liaison for the National Park Service [NPS], emailed David Smith, the Superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park. Hackett wrote to Smith, "Secretary Zinke's wife has two friends from England that want to visit Joshua Tree tomorrow afternoon and she was hoping they could get a personal tour? The names are Duncan Wesley and John Dodenham." Smith replied that he would get the two a personal tour. Hackett wrote back thanking Smith, and told Smith he "saved [her] day!!" [17-00707cd, 05/17/17; Juliet Eilperin, "A perk for friends of the Zinkes: Guided tours through National Park Service sites," Washington Post, 05/18/18]

**Exclusive Parties and Concerts**

On July 4, 2017, the Zinkes had what Lola Zinke described as "our 4th of July party at Department of Interior" that included catered barbecue and watching fireworks from Secretary Zinke's Department of the Interior balcony. Lola Zinke had Interior staff send out party invitations on her behalf. Among the invitees were foreign ambassadors, socialites, the attorneys that represented the Zinkes when they were sued by their former landlord, and lobbyist Don Bramer, who chairs a super PAC that previously donated to Ryan Zinke's congressional campaign. There were a host of other lobbyists and political consultants who attended the party as well, including former Montana Congressman Denny Rehberg of Mercury Public Affairs, which was one of the two groups that worked with Paul Manafort when he worked on behalf of the Ukrainian government, and Kimberly Bellissimo, who is a friend of the Zinkes and a former consultant to Zinke's congressional campaign. Jon Hrobsky, a top lobbyist at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, also attended the party. Horbsky is currently lobbying the Interior Department on behalf of many of David Bernhardt's former clients.

Lola Zinke personally invited the Peruvian ambassador Carlos Pareja and his wife, Mrs. Consuelo Salinas Pareja, to Interior's July 4th celebration. She described the event as "our 4th of July
party at Department of Interior." She continued, "We will have a catered BBQ and watch fireworks from the Secretary's balcony after." [17-00707cc, 06/29/17]

Lola Zinke had Interior staffer Natalie Davis send invitations to Interior's July 4th celebration to DC socialite Mariella Trager and her husband, Michael Trager. ["Red-Hot Revenge," Modern Luxuty, 09/04/13; 17-00707cc, 06/23/17]

Lola Zinke had Interior staffer Natalie Davis send an invitation to Interior's July 4th celebration to Donald Bramer, lobbyist and chairman of Bramer Group LLC, and he attended. Bramer is also the Chairman of Defend Our Nation Political Action Committee. In May 2016, the PAC gave $2,500 to Ryan Zinke's congressional race. [Defend Our Nation PAC Donations to Zinke for Congress, Federal Election Commission, 05/04/16; LinkedIn Profile for Donald Bramer, accessed 05/01/18, 17-00707cc, 06/23/17; Search for Donald Bramer, Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed 05/01/18]

Lola Zinke had Interior staffer Caroline Boulton add additional guests to the July 4th party guest list, including Sevil Altsinoy, who works for Turkish Airlines. Later that summer, Altsinoy was with the Zinkes in Turkey. [17-00707cc, 06/13/17; Facebook Photo by Sinan Yalcin, 08/16/17]

Lola Zinke had Interior staffer Natalie Davis send Sam Neel of McDermott, Will & Emery an invitation to the DOI July 4th party, and he attended. Neel represented the Zinkes when they were sued by their landlords for "breaching their contract" and "wrongfully abandon[ing]" their DC apartment. The other attorney who represented the Zinkes, Steven Ryan, also attended the party. [17-00707cc, 06/23/17; Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Washington DC. V. Ryan Zinke et. al., 2016 CA-007772-B]

Secretary Ryan Zinke and Lola Zinke invited Azerbaijani Ambassador Elin Suleymanov and his wife Lala Abdurahimova to Interior's July 4th celebration. [17-00707, 06/30/17; Gail Scott, "Husband-Wife Diplomats Introduce U.S. to Their Emerging Nation," The Washington Diplomat, 07/30/13]

Upon Heather Swift's advice, Secretary Zinke invited political ad maker Bill Kenyon to Interior's July 4th celebration. Kenyon was the political director of Strategic Perception Inc. at the time the company shot the "Debbie Spenditnow" Super Bowl ad which was criticized as racist against Asian Americans. [Steven Yaccino and Jonathan Weisman, "Ad Draws Protests for Portrayal of Asians," New York Times, 02/06/12; 17-00707cc, 06/19/17]

Former Montana Congressman Denny Rehberg, who is now a "Co-Chairman" at the public affairs firm Mercury and has been a lobbyist for Westlands Water District and Cemex, also attended the Fourth of July party. Mercury Public Affairs was one of the two groups "working with [Paul] Manafort and his partner Rick Gates from 2012-2014 in lobbying to improve the image of the Ukrainian government." Manafort and Gates first solicited Mercury in February 2012 and began working with them sometime before April 8, 2012. [Tom Hamburger and Carol Leoning, "Amid swirl of controversy, Democratic power lobbyist Tony Podesta steps down,"
Jean Sagouspe, who is on the board of directors of the conservative Steamboat Institute, also attended the Fourth of July party. ["Jean Pierre Sagouspe," The Steamboat Institute, accessed 12/19/17; 17-00707, Page 715]

Joe and Kathy Ferreira also attended Interior’s Fourth of July party. Joe Ferreira is executive vice president at Peduzzi Associates. Peduzzi Associates is a “lobbying and consulting firm” that has employed current DOI staff Micah Chambers and Scott Hommel. ["Scott Hommel," Department of Influence, accessed 12/19/17; "Micah Chambers," Department of Influence, accessed 12/19/17; Joe Ferreira Facebook page, accessed 12/19/17; 17-00707, 07/04/17]

Kimberly Bellissimo also attended the Fourth of July party. Bellissimo is a friend of Lola Zinke’s on Facebook and the CEO and founder of ForthRight Strategy, a direct mail fundraising firm that was a consultant for Ryan Zinke’s congressional campaign. Former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli describes ForthRight Strategy as part of a "national fundraising scam" and the company was criticized by GOP Representative Will Hurd of Texas as "preying on seniors in a disgusting attempt to enrich themselves." Zinke's praise of the firm appeared on its website until Campaign for Accountability filed an ethics complaint. ["Clients," ForthRight Strategy, accessed 12/19/17; Ben Lefebvre and Nick Juliano, "Zinke funneled millions to questionable PACs," Politico, 10/24/17; 17-00707, 07/04/17]

Another notable person invited to the Fourth of July event was Jon Hrobsky, who at the time was policy director for Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck and has since been promoted to lead Brownstein’s Energy Practice. Shortly after the Fourth of July party, fellow Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck alum David Bernhardt was confirmed as Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Hrobsky is still lobbying Interior on behalf of Bernhardt's old clients, including Taylor Energy Company, Statoil, and Cobalt International Energy. [17-00707, 07/04/17; LinkedIn Profile for Jon Hrobsky, accessed 05/01/18, Search for Jon Hrobsky, Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed 05/01/18; Profile for David Bernhardt, Department of Influence, accessed 05/01/18; Theodoric Meyer, "Chambliss' role in Equifax hearings a mystery," Politico, 10/06/17]

For all the other Fourth of July guests there is an "organization" listed to indicate how they were invited—either by the Zinkes, the White House, they were political staff, etc. Interestingly, there is no "organization" listed for Hrobsky, making it unclear how he received the invitation. [17-00707, 07/04/17]

On July 3, 2017, Secretary Ryan Zinke attended a Beach Boys rehearsal, but the U.S. Park Police, who provide Secretary Zinke’s security, were not given enough advance warning by Secretary Zinke's staff. As a result, one park police staffer had to work a 16-hour day to ensure Secretary Zinke had security. Secretary Zinke was able to get "backstage" at the dress
rehearsal for the "Capitol Fourth" concert to meet members of the Beach Boys. He also may have given a tour of the Lincoln Memorial to members of the band.

Elaine Hackett, on June 29, 2017, asked Caroline Boulton if Secretary Zinke could give an underground tour of the Lincoln memorial to members of the Beach Boys. [17-00707cd, 06/29/17]

On Monday, July 3, 2017, Hackett emailed Caroline Boulton, Laura Rigas, and Downey Magallanes to notify them the Beach Boys "were not getting into DC until late this morning" and as such "They may not be able to do the Lincoln today, but are open to Wednesday morning ..... they are going to get the Secretary backstage to meet them this evening at the Dress Rehearsal." [17-00707cd, 07/03/17]

The Beach Boys headlined at the July 4th concert on the National Mall, also known as "A Capitol Fourth." ["John Stamos, Beach Boys to headline July 4 concert in DC," Associated Press, 06/06/17]

On July 4, 2017, a Lieutenant for the US Park Police [whose name has been redacted] emailed Rusty Roddy and CC'ed Leila Getto and Caroline Boulton. The Lieutenant was emailing to say there had been "an issue of coverage yesterday" because not enough advance warning had been given to let the Park Police know Secretary Zinke was attending the Beach Boys rehearsal on Monday evening. Because Secretary Zinke was "attending and expecting" the park police, a police staffer whose name has been redacted was forced to work extra hours, "from 630 am to 11pm" to ensure Secretary Zinke had adequate security during the concert rehearsal.

The Lieutenant writing the email to Roddy wrote that it "would be extremely helpful if we are in the loop for all event and attendance possibilities in which the SOI may utilize his security detail whether it be an official or personal event" so that the Park Police could "provide adequate security without unnecessarily burdening" themselves. [17-07007cd, 07/04/17]

**Political Action Committees**

Ryan Zinke launched the Supporting Electing American Leaders [SEAL] PAC "when he was elected to Congress in 2014" and has since "disaffiliated himself from the group." Vincent DeVito, former top Interior aide of Zinke's, was the treasurer of SEAL PAC until May 2017. Kimberley Bellissimo, a friend of the Zinkes who runs a direct mail company that SEAL PAC uses, has been accused of working with "'scam PACs'" that "raise small-dollar donations from conservative voters but then spend the bulk of the money on consultants and overhead." SEAL PAC has continued to use the services of Forth Right Strategies and other Bellissimo companies since he started at Interior.

Ryan Zinke launched Supporting Electing American Leaders [SEAL] Political Action Committee [PAC] "when he was elected to Congress in 2014 and disaffiliated himself from the group after being selected to join President Donald Trump's Cabinet."
During the 2016 election cycle, Vincent DeVito was Treasurer of SEAL PAC. DeVito served as Treasurer of SEAL PAC until May 2017, when he started serving in the newly created role of Secretary Zinke's energy policy advisor at the Interior Department. [Ben Lefebvre, "FEC increases scrutiny of Zinke's former PAC," Politico, 04/02/18; Corbin Hiar, "Zinke creates energy policy post for former PAC treasurer," E&E News, 05/01/17]

ForthRight Strategy is a direct mail firm that works for "conservative nonprofit and advocacy organizations." [Who We Are, Forth Right Strategy, 04/03/18]

In the 2016 election cycle SEAL PAC used "ForthRight Strategy, Direct Support Services and Legacy Lists — all of which operate out of the same office and list ForthRight CEO Kimberly Bellissimo among their executives." Additionally, "as Interior secretary [Zinke] helped raise money for a Virgin Islands-based PAC that was another top client of Bellissimo’s firms."

Kimberly Bellissimo has "been accused by some prominent conservatives of working with 'scam PACs' that raise money by allegedly misleading conservative donors," which "raise small-dollar donations from conservative voters but then spend the bulk of the money on consultants and overhead." [Ben Lefebvre and Nick Juliano, "Zinke funneled millions to questionable PACs," Politico Pro, 10/24/17; Ben Lefebvre and Nick Juliano, "Top Zinke aide's wife has worked for controversial fundraiser," Politico Pro, 10/27/17]

Kimberly "Bellissimo also appears to be friends with Zinke and his wife, Lolita, judging by their interactions on social media. In February 2016, Bellissimo posted a photo to Facebook of her and her husband with Ryan Zinke and Rob O’Neill, a former Navy SEAL who claims to have shot Osama Bin Laden. Lolita Zinke commented 'beautiful lady,' to which Bellissimo replied, 'Back at 'ya Lady Z!" On May 12, 2016, Bellissimo posted a photo of her with Lolita Zinke and Lucretia Hommel at the annual First Lady's Lunch hosted by the Congressional Club at the Washington Hilton." [Ben Lefebvre and Nick Juliano, "Top Zinke aide's wife has worked for controversial fundraiser," Politico Pro, 10/27/17]

Since March 2017 when Ryan Zinke was sworn in as the Secretary of the Interior, SEAL PAC has continued to use ForthRight Strategy, Direct Support Services and Legacy Lists for PAC List Acquisition and PAC Direct Mail services. [SEAL PAC Disbursements, Federal Election Commission, 01/01/17 – 04/03/18]

Kimberly Bellissimo and Terry Davis were both listed as Secretary Zinke's guests at his 2017 4th of July party at the Interior Department. [17-00707, 07/04/17]

On September 27, 2017, during an official trip to Monmouth Beach, New Jersey to visit the Gateway National Recreation Area, Secretary Zinke appears to have spent the night at the beach house of Kimberly Bellissimo and her husband, Terry Davis. His schedule for the afternoon of September 27, 2018 says "Department Gateway National Recreation Area en route Monmouth Beach, NJ" and then next on his schedule is "Downtime at RON [Residence
Over Night]." The location of "RON" is "Residence of Kimberly Bellisimo & Terry Davis." Zinke's schedule then said he Department RON for dinner, had dinner, and returned to RON for the rest of the evening. [17-00413cd, 09/27/17]

This appears to be the same Monmouth, New Jersey Beach house that Lucretia Hommel, wife of top Zinke Interior aide Scott Hommel, recently redecorated through her interior design company, Snobz Interior Design. [Facebook Post by Lucretia Franklyn Hommel, 01/01/17, accessed 04/03/18]

"Secretary Ryan Zinke's congressional campaign committee" may have "provided illegal benefits to Zinke's family or friends" since he became Interior Secretary.

"Secretary Ryan Zinke's congressional campaign committee bought an RV" in 2016 for $59,100 "from his wife then sold it to a friend" in 2017 for $25,000. This pair of transactions may have "provided illegal benefits to Zinke's family or friends." [Esther Whieldon, "Watchdog urges probe of whether Zinke campaign benefited friend, family," Politico, 10/30/17]

Other Issues

“In a speech before oil and gas industry executives, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke argued that the production and transportation of wind turbines contributes to global warming.”

“In a speech before oil and gas industry executives, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke argued that the production and transportation of wind turbines contributes to global warming,” and he “echoed a long-held argument from President Donald Trump that wind turbines kill birds.” Zinke greatly “overstated the numbers on bird deaths.”

“Spread out over the life cycle of a typical turbine, scientists estimate that the typical wind plant generates between .02 and .04 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt-hour of electricity produced. Even at the high end, that’s less than 3% of the emissions from coal-generated electricity and less than 7% of the emissions from natural gas-generated electricity.”

Birds are “killed in other forms of energy production — and industry more broadly — at even higher numbers” than from wind turbines. [Justin Worland, “Trump’s Interior Secretary Claimed Wind Power Leads to Global Warming. His Numbers Are Wrong,” Time, 03/06/18]

Ryan Zinke told Breitbart News that progressive “environmental terrorist groups” are in large part “responsible for...deadly wildfires in the Western United States.”

Ryan Zinke, in August 2018, told Breitbart News “that ‘environmental terrorist groups’ are, in part, responsible for the deadly wildfires in the Western United States.” He “said, while it is true that wildfire seasons have grown dryer and hotter, the underlying cause of the fires themselves
is because of the ‘fuel load’ of dead timber and other combustible matter littering forests. ‘We have been held hostage by these environmental terrorist groups that have not allowed public access — that have refused to allow [the] harvest of timber,’ Zinke” said.” [Penny Starr, “Exclusive – Ryan Zinke: ‘Environmental Terrorist Groups’ Play Role in Western U.S. Wildfires,” Breitbart News, 08/13/18]

Ryan Zinke proposed “considering using West Coast military installations or other federal properties to open the way for more U.S. fossil fuel exports to Asia in the name of national security...despite opposition from coastal states.”

“The Trump administration is considering using West Coast military installations or other federal properties to open the way for more U.S. fossil fuel exports to Asia in the name of national security and despite opposition from coastal states. The proposal was described to The Associated Press by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke,” who said, “it’s in our interest for national security and our allies to make sure that they have access to affordable energy commodities.’ Accomplishing that, Zinke said, may require the use of ‘some of our naval facilities, some of our federal facilities on the West Coast.’ He only identified one prospect, a mostly abandoned Alaska military base.” [Matthew Brown, “West Coast military installations eyed for US fuel exports,” The Associated Press, 10/15/18]

Ryan Zinke, in 2018, said, a “Naval blockade is an option for dealing with Russia.”

According to a news story with the headline, “Ryan Zinke: Naval blockade is an option for dealing with Russia,” Ryan Zinke, in September 2018, said “the U.S. Navy can blockade Russia if needed to keep it from controlling energy supplies in the Middle East as it does in Europe. ‘The United States has that ability, with our Navy, to make sure the sea lanes are open, and, if necessary, to blockade...to make sure that their energy does not go to market,’ Zinke said.” [John Siciliano, “Ryan Zinke: Naval blockade is an option for dealing with Russia,” The Washington Examiner, 09/28/18]

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, made denigrating comments about Native Americans, saying that "dependence on the government" was too high on some reservations. Montana Indian Democrats Council President James Steele Jr. said the comment promoted "negative stereotypes."

In 2014, Ryan Zinke reportedly made denigrating comments about Native Americans, saying that "dependence on the government" was too high on some reservations, and if "you want to feed someone, you need to teach a person how to fish." Montana Indian Democrats Council President James Steele Jr. said Zinke’s comments "promote negative stereotypes about Native Americans." [“Campaigns talk cars, Native Americans,” Great Falls Tribune, 09/16/14]

Despite the potential negative impacts on Native American communities, Ryan Zinke co-sponsored legislation to require "all official functions of the United States to be conducted in
English," including Interior Department functions. He collaborated with a hate group to promote the bill.

Ryan Zinke, in 2015, cosponsored H.R. 997, the English Language Unity Act of 2015, which would establish "English as the official language of the United States" and require "all official functions of the United States to be conducted in English." [H.R.997 - English Language Unity Act of 2015, U.S. House of Representatives, 02/13/15; Press Release, Steve King, 02/13/15]

ProEnglish, which was categorized as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, conducted an interview with Zinke about his support of the bill. [ProEnglish interviews Congressman Ryan Zinke of Montana, ProEnglishOrg accessed via Youtube, 03/21/16; “Anti-Immigrant Group ProEnglish Fails With English-Only Effort in Maryland,” Southern Poverty Law Center, 08/27/15]

Ryan Zinke said the United States needs "English as a common language."

Ryan Zinke, in 2013, said the United States needs "English as a common language," because "as Americans we need to be able to talk. We need to be able to communicate with each other, and I think if you're going to have a US passport, English is our unifying language." [“THE Hagmann AND Hagmann Report 9 9 2013 0, The Official Hagmann Report, 09/10/13 (75:00)

Ryan Zinke, in 2014, said, "speak English! We're one country under God. We should be able to speak English as a common language. That's the answer." [Ryan Zinke, “MT AL Republican Primary Debate, 3 24 14,” YouTube, 03/25/14, (45:00)]

Ryan Zinke supports "requiring" citizens to be fluent in English and said it "infuriates" him when "driver's license tests are in 15 different languages."

Ryan Zinke, at a campaign event in Bigfork Montana in 2014, said, "it infuriates me when driver's license tests are in 15 different languages." Zinke "supports requiring citizens to be fluent in English." [Caleb Soplean, “RYAN ZINKE CAMPAIGNS IN BIGFORK, SAYS HILLARY CLINTON IS THE "ANTI-CHRIST," Bigfork Eagle, 01/30/14

Index

A
Alpha Natural Resources
Antiquities Act
Bears Ear National Monument
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Atrazine
Bears Ear National Monument
(See National Monuments)
Benedetto, Kathleen
Bernhardt, David
Bernstein, Dr. Joel
   Donation to SOFA
   Donation to Zinke’s Congressional Campaign
Biography, Ryan Zinke

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
(See National Monuments)
Casinos, gambling
   California Gaming Compacts
   Inspector General Report
   MGM Resorts International
Cason, James
   “Greedy” Native Americans
   Mashpee Tribe
   Navajo Generating Station
Channel Islands National Park Tour
   Anti-Conversation Fishermen
   “Bumped” National Park Staffers for Friends
   Chandlery, The
   Itinerary Change
   Lagomarsino, Bob
   Zinkes’ Friends and Family
Climate Change
   Editing Reports
   Reynolds, Michael
   Zinke, Ryan
      Climate Change
      Global Warming
Cloud Peak Energy
   Federal Ban on Coal Leases
   Indian Coal Production Tax Credit [ICPTC]
   Office of Surface Mining
Coal Royalties
(See Royalty Rates)
Coal, War On
Columbia Falls Aluminum Company
Continental Divide Inns, LLC
  Bernstein, Dr. Joel
  Delinquent Taxes
  Dissolved by the State
Continental Divide International, LLC
  Delinquent Taxes
  Dissolved by the State
  Forfeiture of Right to Do Business
  Special Operations for America [SOFA]
Continental Divide, LLC
  Save the World Air Inc

D
Delinquent Taxes
  Continental Divide Inns, LLC
  Continental Divide International, LLC
  Double Tap, LLC
  Zinke, Ryan & Lola
DeVito, Vincent
  American Petroleum Institute [API]
  Endangered Species Act
  Rewarded with Appointment
Double Tap, LLC
  Delinquent Taxes
  Forfeiture of Right to Do Business
Drilling
  Bureau of Land Management
  Indian Reservations
  Public Land
E
Endangered Species Act
Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]
  Biomass Energy
  Ceramic Tile Industry
  Clean Power Plan
  Renewable Volume Obligations
F
Federal Advisory Committee Act
Fracking
  Native American Energy Act
G
Gateway Pacific Terminal [GPT]
Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument  
*(See National Monuments)*

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument  
*(See National Monuments)*

The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation [GNVPPF]

**Assets**

*Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad*  
*Failed to Resign*  
*Grattan, Tim*  
*Halliburton*  
*Undeveloped*

**H**

*Halliburton*

**Hatch Act**

*Florida Governor Rick Scott*  
*Las Vegas Golden Knights*  
*Pennsylvania’s 18th Congressional*

**I**

**Interior, Department of the**

*Employees*

*Bloomberg, Megan*  
*Domenech, Doug*  
*Hommel, Scott*  
*Rigas, Laura*

*Staffing*

*Hiring Campaign Staff*  
*Not Loyal to the Flag*  
*Political Appointments*

*DeVito, Vincent*  
*Howke, Steve*

*Reassignment*  
*Reynolds, Michael*  
*Violation of Anti-Discrimination Laws*

**Investigations**

*Appointment of Suzanne Israel Tufts*  
*Channel Islands Trip*  
*Chartered Flights*  
*Greece & Turkey Trip*  
*Halliburton*  
*Justice Department Referral*  
*MGM Lobbying*
Office Door
Scott, Gov. Rick
Threatening Lisa Murkowski
Zinke, Lola, Travel

J
Jorjani, Daniel
“Potential Non-Compliant Use of Government Resources”

K
Keystone XL Pipeline

L
Livingstone, Neil

M
Methane Waste, Venting and Flaring
American Petroleum Institute [API]
Zinke
Mexican Gray Wolf
Migratory Bird Treaty Act [MBTA]
Mining
Baker, Phil and Hecla Mining Inc
Office of Surface Mining
Twin Metals Minnesota

N
National Monuments
Bears Ear National Monument
Oil Production
EP Energy E&P Co LP
ExxonMobil
Intrepid Oil & Gas LLC
Kirkwood Oil and Gas LLC
Reduction
Violation of the Antiquities Act
Campaign Rally, Trump and Zinke
Canceled Meeting with Moapa Band of Paiutes
Las Vegas Steakhouse
Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
American Forest Resource Council [AFRC]
Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Chevron
Kaiparowits Plateau
Kerr McGee Oil & Gas Onshore LP
Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC
McMoran Oil & Gas Co
Noel, Mike
Oil & Gas Leasing
Violation of the Antiquities Act

Gold Butte National Monument
Campaign Rally, Trump and Zinke
Canceled Meeting with Moapa Band of Paiutes
Las Vegas Steakhouse

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument
Willens, Todd, Lobbyist
Review and Outcry
Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument

National Parks
Budget Cuts
Navy SEAL Team 6
Ned, Michael
Center for Biological Diversity and Sierra Club Lawsuit
Trump Budget Cuts

Oil & Gas Industry
American Petroleum Institute [API]
Lobbyists at the Department of the Interior
Montana Petroleum Association [MPA]
Western Energy Alliance

Ozone Reduction

On Point Montana, LLC
Dissolved by the State

Oil & Gas

Parties
Beach Boys
4th of July party

Public Land
Ceding Federal Control
Drilling
Funding
Transferring Federal Land

PROOF Research Inc

Q

R

Regulation, Local
Fishing Seasons
Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act

Renewable Energy
Biofuels
Montana’s Energy Portfolio

Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument
(See National Monuments)

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Royalty Rates
Coal Royalty Loophole
Beneficiaries

S

Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Washington DC

Sage Grouse
Independent Petroleum Association of America [IPAA]
Montana Petroleum Association [MPA]
Review, Federal and State Plans
Western Energy Alliance
Zinke, Opinion

Santa Barbara, CA
Chandlery, The
Lola Zinke’s Family Trust

Save the World Air Inc. [STWA]
Tax Liens (See Tax Liens)
TransCanada Keystone Pipeline

Senate Confirmation
Climate Change
Geologist
Monument Designation
Taxes
Stream Protection Rule

Special Operations for America [SOFA]
Continental Divide International, LLC
Navy Special Warfare Insignia
Vallely, Paul
STWA Asia Pte. Limited
Supporting, Electing American Leaders PAC [SEAL PAC]
  BNSF
Swift, Heather
  Marsh, Rene
  Spies, Michael
  Withholding FOIA Response
T
Tax Liens
  Save the World Air Inc
Timber
Trans-Alaska Pipeline
Travel
  Zinke, Lola
    Accompanying of Official Travel
      Helicopter to Camp David
      South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida
    Personal Travel
      California Channel Islands
      Greece & Turkey Trip
      Mediterranean
    Using Department Resources
      Military Flight to Norway
      MILAIR Flight from Alaska
  Zinke, Ryan
    Chartered Flights
      Alaska
      Los Vegas Golden Knights
      US Virgin Islands
    First Class Flights
    Personal Travel
      California Channel Islands
      Greece & Turkey Trip
      Mediterranean
      Navy Seals
  Trump, Executive Order, Energy Independence
    Drill for Oil in National Parks
U
V
VIP Treatment
  “Bumped” National Park Staffers for Friends
Channel Island National Park
Guided tours

W
Western Energy Alliance [WEA]
Meeting with Zinke
National Monuments

White Nationalism
Confederate Monuments
Gorka, Sebastian
Rose, Taylor
Spencer, Richard

Whitefish Energy Holdings LLC
Wildfires
Decreased Funding, Wildland Fire Management

X

Y
Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act

Z
Zinke, Lolita
Delinquent Taxes
Departmental Involvement
Attending Official Meetings
National Pets Day
Meeting Department Employees
Official Meeting with California Gov. Jerry Brown
Tribal Meeting, attendance
Secretarial Orders
Young America’s Foundation

Dinner with Conoco Phillips
Family Trust
Requesting Personal Tours for Friends
Spouse Ethics Briefing, not in attendance
Travel
(See Travel, Lolita Zinke)
“Wall Street Hitters” Dinner

Yacht

Zinke, Ryan
Bears Ears, Oil
Birther
Boehner, John

Calendar
Delinquent Taxes
Dinner with Conoco Phillips
Geologist
Gohmert, Louie

Issues
Benghazi
Climate Change
Clinton, Hillary

EPA
English As A Common Language
Global Warming
Guns
Methane
Obama, Barack
Oil and Gas Industry
Naval Blockade, Russia
Putin, Vladimir
Torture
Wildfires

National Monument Review
Not Loyal to the Flag
Partner to Industry

Politicking
American Legislative Exchange Council
Fox & Friends
Florida Governor Rick Scott
Gianforte, Greg
GOP Fundraiser
Helicopter to Camp David
Las Vegas Golden Knights
National Rifle Association
Nielson & Associates
Pennsylvania’s 18th Congressional
Republican National Committee Spring Meeting Dinner
Rule of Law Defense Fund
“Wall Street Hitters” Dinner

Travel
(See Travel, Ryan Zinke)

Trump Budget Cuts
Trump, Executive Order, Energy Independence
Western Energy Alliance [WEA] Meeting
#

2012 Lieutenant Gubernatorial Campaign
2014 Congressional Campaign

Ash, Landon
Bernstein, Dr. Joel
BNSF
Cloud Peak Energy
Illegal Benefits
Oil Company Funding
Spencer, Richard