From: David Lucas
To: Noreen Walsh
Cc: Will Meeks; Matt Hogan; Paul Santavy
Subject: Re: Great day in RMANWR
Date: Friday, May 23, 2014 8:16:26 AM

Thank you Noreen.

I am sure Matt will report at your coffee meeting, buts lots of insights into her goals.

She discussed the collective impact model for climate change (we based our RMANWR urban proposal on this - we need to get our HQ folks thinking this way - the 1+1+1 folks). She got great questions on how to improve hiring (re the youth in the room having to do usajobs). She said improving hiring was her top priority in the next 33 months. Good discussion on Bundyville and what it means to be a federal employee. Great question on being a woman on the cabinet. It was fun.

During our tour she asked questions about pre/pro sequestration. She talked a lot about how we can all improve our pitches to private dollars. This area is still awkward for me, so it was good to hear. Matt fielded some good ESA stuff. She is a self-proclaimed nerd (like all of us FWS folks).

Spending all day with the Secretary was a great opportunity for everyone. Staff felt valued. Everyone knew it was a once in a career moment.

Back to floods.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 23, 2014, at 5:34 AM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> David, I'm not at all surprised the Secretary had a fantastic day at RMA! It says a lot that Blake would take the time to write such a note - kudos and much appreciation to you and your staff for the prep and execution of yet another great event.
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> Noreen
>
> Noreen Walsh
> Regional Director
> Mountain-Prairie Region
> U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
>> **From:** "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
>> **Date:** May 22, 2014 at 11:44:18 PM MDT

To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <Elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>, Betsy Hildebrandt <betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov>, noreen_walsh@fws.gov, David Lucas <david_c_lucas@fws.gov>, matt_hogan@fws.gov, Marla Trollan <marla_trollan@fws.gov>, Katherine Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica L Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <Emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Fullerton <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <Sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>
Subject: Great day in RMANWR

We had a great day in Denver and I wanted to offer a big thanks to Refuge Manager Dave Lucas and both the RMANWR staff and the regional staff for supporting today's visit.

The press conference started and stopped according to the schedule – nearly to the minute. The Secretary got to spend over an hour planting cottonwood trees with youth from Groundwork Denver and refuge staff. She did interviews with the Associated Press and Greenwire while out in the field. She negotiated with the reporters that they would get one on-topic question for every tree they planted and one off-topic question for every two trees they planted.

We had lunch with the students, the FWS employees, a few Forest Service staffers. The Commerce City Mayor graciously hosted us and El Jardin did a great job catering the event.

The Secretary had everyone introduce themselves, talk a little bit about their job, and why nature was important to them. We got nearly through the entire room before the tornado sirens went off and we had to relocate for a bit.

We took advantage of this down time while we were sheltering to do a quick interview with the Denver Post on several hot topics in Colorado – bison, balancing oil and gas development with conservation, water, sage grouse, and fire.

Once the interview was over and we got the all-clear siren, we went back and finished the employee meeting. The Secretary took a handful of questions and then spent some one-on-one time with BLM Colorado State Director Ruth Welch. Director Kornze officially promoted Ruth on Monday, but she is a Colorado native and it was clear that she has had BLM blood in her body for a long time so she is off to a productive start.

Then it was off to the repository for a very fascinating tour of the 1.5 million items they house - a stark reminder of the illegal trade in wildlife. The Secretary mentioned several times during the drive to the airport tonight how powerful she found the tour. We also got a tour of the eagle lab where they fulfill eagle orders for tribes.

After the eagle lab we went on a driving tour of the 15,000-acre refuge. It rained pretty hard but we got to see a wide variety of the issues the refuge tackles ever day. We saw the destruction caused by the prairie dogs, a herd of 80 bison, eagles and all kinds of other wildlife. We ended the tour at the new visitor center, which has a lot of really interesting artifacts from when the refuge used to be an active military installation.

As always, Team FWS was a very gracious and hospitable host.

We just landed in El Paso and are now on our way to Las Cruces. We are about an hour behind schedule, but doing better than our Bloomberg Businessweek reporter and his photographer who both missed their flight from Denver to El Paso and are having to drive from Albuquerque but their equipment is in Texas. Whoops.

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Blake Androff
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