

Conversation Contents

Re: IWCC March 16 mtg agenda & building entry instructions

Attachments:

/50. Re: IWCC March 16 mtg agenda & building entry instructions/1.1 Recommendation from public-IWCC members.pdf

MMessina (b) (6)

From: MMessina <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 21:37:08 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <iwcc@fws.gov>, <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: IWCC March 16 mtg agenda & building entry instructions
Attachments: Recommendation from public-IWCC members.pdf

HelloJoshua,

I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the IWCC meeting tomorrow. **I hope you are able to provide me with a link to presentations, minutes, or video after the meeting.**

Attached, I have recommended 3 knowledgeable, in-country conservation experts you might ask to join the council or whom you might confer with. Briefly below:

1. **Dr. Phillip Muruthi**, chief scientist for African Wildlife Foundation - he works all across Africa, https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-extreme-life-of-a-conservation-scientist_us_5a0c36bfe4b06d8966cf33d8
2. **Dr Laurie Marker** - Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund - she has been in Namibia for Over 20 working with local farmers, endangered species, hunters, tourism, conservationists implementing very effective win-win systems. <https://cheetah.org/about-us/staff/laurie-l-marker-dphil/>
3. **Kai-Uwe Denker** with the Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA) - He is an award-winning situ tracker-ranger to guide foreign trophy hunters on their hunts. <http://huntnamibia.com.na/2017/08/22/conservationist-beyond-doubt-kai-uwe-denker/>

These in-country conservationists may provide insights when the council seeks to understand impacts past and future of trophy hunting within African nations. I did read the submitted public comments.

I noticed much focus on South Africa, also Zimbabwe, and Kenya, with one expert in Tanzania. I would add that each country has very different regulatory structures not to mention differing hopes and economic issues. Low-population countries like Namibia and Botswana are working to defeat rural poverty and habitat losses. They also have a unique conservancy system - developed by emulating American ingenuity - and they are working hard to maintain their wildlife and habitats while building prosperity.

Thank you.

Marianne Messina
Marketing Editor, HuffPost blogger
<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/marianne-messina>

-----Original Message-----

From: IWCC, FWHQ <iwcc@fws.gov>
To: undisclosed-recipients;
Sent: Tue, Mar 13, 2018 5:54 am
Subject: IWCC March 16 mtg agenda & building entry instructions

You are registered to attend the International Wildlife Conservation Council meeting on March 16th at the South Penthouse of the Main Interior Building (1849 C St. NW, Washington DC).

The meeting agenda and associated documents are posted [here](#). All meeting-related documents will be posted to this website, so please check back there for the most up-to-date information.

I've included your name on Main Interior's visitor list for the meeting. When you enter the building please present a valid photo ID at the security desk, inform them you are attending the IWCC meeting in the South Penthouse and you will be given a visitor pass.

The South Penthouse is accessed via its own elevator: after receiving your Main Interior Building visitor pass enter the building, take an elevator up and exit on the 7th floor. Walk south along the main corridor and you will see the South Penthouse elevator on the right side (look for the sign).

--

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
International Wildlife Conservation Council

www.fws.gov/iwcc

(703) 358-2639

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Division of Visitor Services and Communications
5275 Leesburg Pike
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

Conversation Contents

International Wildlife Conservation Council

"Putney, Barton J" <PutneyBJ@state.gov>

From: "Putney, Barton J" <PutneyBJ@state.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 15:03:43 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "joshua_winchell@fws.gov" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
CC: "Dawson, Christine L (OES)" <DawsonCL@state.gov>, "Watson, Rowena P" <WatsonRP@state.gov>, "craig_hoover@fws.gov" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Subject: International Wildlife Conservation Council

Hi Joshua,
Rowena Watson will be representing State at tomorrow's meeting of the Council. Going forward, she and Chris Dawson are the best POCs on related issues and meetings.
Regards,
Bart Putney

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
2201 C Street, NW, Suite 3880
(202) 647-2232*

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 15:04:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: joshua_winchell@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: International Wildlife Conservation Council

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Putney, Barton J" <PutneyBJ@state.gov>
Date: March 15, 2018 at 4:56:25 PM EDT
To: "[Joshua Wincell@fws.gov](mailto:Joshua_Wincell@fws.gov)" <[Joshua Wincell@fws.gov](mailto:Joshua_Wincell@fws.gov)>
Cc: "Dawson, Christine L (OES)" <DawsonCL@state.gov>, "Watson, Rowena P"

<WatsonRP@state.gov>, "craig_hoover@fws.gov" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Subject: International Wildlife Conservation Council

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Bart Putney

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(202) 647-2232*

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 15:47:30 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Putney, Barton J" <PutneyBJ@state.gov>
CC: "Dawson, Christine L (OES)" <DawsonCL@state.gov>, "Watson, Rowena P" <WatsonRP@state.gov>, "craig_hoover@fws.gov" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: International Wildlife Conservation Council

Bart,

Understood. I look forward to meeting Rowena tomorrow!

-Joshua

On Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 5:03 PM Putney, Barton J <PutneyBJ@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Joshua,
Rowena Watson will be representing State at tomorrow's meeting of the Council. Going forward, she and Chris Dawson are the best POCs on related issues and meetings.
Regards,
Bart Putney

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment
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(202) 647-2232*

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

--
Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council

International Wildlife Conservation Council

Office (703) 358-2639
Cell (571) 329-1172

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Division of Visitor Services and Communications
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 16:02:30 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: International Wildlife Conservation Council

Call my cell if you get a chance. (b) (6)

On Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 5:47 PM, Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov> wrote:
Bart,

Understood. I look forward to meeting Rowena tomorrow!

-Joshua

On Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 5:03 PM Putney, Barton J <PutneyBJ@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Joshua,

Rowena Watson will be representing State at tomorrow's meeting of the Council. Going forward, she and Chris Dawson are the best POCs on related issues and meetings.

Regards,

Bart Putney

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: FW: Meeting on Friday

Attachments:

/52. Fwd: FW: Meeting on Friday/1.1 image001.jpg
/52. Fwd: FW: Meeting on Friday/1.2 image002.jpg

"Kessler, Danielle" <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>

From: "Kessler, Danielle" <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 15:22:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Meeting on Friday
Attachments: image001.jpg image002.jpg

Hi Josh,

I'm sure that you are inundated right now and I do apologize for adding to your inbox. I talked with Sara Walker earlier today and promised that I would try to get an answer regarding admission to tomorrow's meeting. Do folks have to be pre-registered? Or can you they just show up?

Thanks and best of luck tomorrow! Danielle

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Sara Walker** <swalker@aza.org>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 4:35 PM
Subject: FW: Meeting on Friday
To: Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>

Sara Walker
Senior Advisor on Wildlife Trafficking
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
[8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710](#)
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
Phone: 301-244-3320
Mobile/Text: 702-979-8044
Email: swalker@aza.org

/Users/sara/Desktop/Horizontal/AZA-USWTA-LockUp_Horizontal_CMYK.jpg

From: Sara Walker <swalker@AZA.org>
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:07 PM
To: "iwcc@fws.gov" <iwcc@fws.gov>
Subject: Meeting on Friday

Hi Josh—

Is it still possible to RSVP for the IWCC meeting on Friday? Just as an observer.

And apologies if you received this message twice. I sent an email yesterday, but didn't see it in my "sent" items so wanted to make sure it got to you!

Thanks,
Sara

Sara Walker
Senior Advisor on Wildlife Trafficking
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
[8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710](#)
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
Phone: 301-244-3320
Mobile/Text: 702-979-8044
Email: swalker@aza.org

/Users/sara/Desktop/Horizontal/AZA-
USWTA-LockUp_Horizontal_CMYK.jpg

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Danielle Kessler
Chief, Office of Outreach & Communications
International Affairs Program
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
703-358-2644
www.fws.gov/international

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: IWCC Meeting Tomorrow

Daniel Ashe <DAshe@aza.org>

From: Daniel Ashe <DAshe@aza.org>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 14:49:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "joshua_winchell@fws.gov" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>, Sara Walker <swalker@aza.org>
Subject: Fwd: IWCC Meeting Tomorrow

Josh, the last flight out of DCA to Great Falls, Montana is at 5 p.m. on that Friday. Can I make this?

Thanks so much,
Mike Ingram

Denise M. Organ
on behalf of Mike Ingram

(b) (6)

From: Winchell, Joshua [mailto:joshua_winchell@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:38 AM
To: Bill Brewster (b) (6) >; Cameron Hanes <(b) (6)>; Chris Hudson (b) (6) >; Denise Welker <(b) (6)>; Erica Rhoad (b) (6) >; Gary Steven Kania (b) (6) >; Ivan Carter (b) (6) >; Jenifer Chatfield (b) (6) >; John J. Jackson, III (b) (6) >; Mike Ingram (b) (6) >; Keith Mark (b) (6) >; Olivia Nalos Opre (b) (6) >; Paul Babaz (b) (6) >; Peter Lewis Horn II (b) (6) >; Steve Chancellor (b) (6) >; Terry Maple (b) (6) >
Subject: IWCC Meeting Information

Council Members,

I wanted to send a quick note once again congratulating you on your appointment to the International Wildlife Conservation Council and re-confirming two important dates:

- **Thursday March 15th starting at 5:30pm:** Reception at the Main Interior Building (1849 C St. NW, Washington, D.C.) for IWCC members and senior DOI leadership followed by a group dinner.
- **Friday March 16th 8am-4:30pm:** Inaugural Meeting of the IWCC at the Main Interior Building.

I am developing an agenda for the meeting and more detailed reception/dinner information. I will provide this information as soon as it is finalized but please call if you have any questions. **FYI - Knowledge of the IWCC meeting will be made public tomorrow** Thursday March 1, 2018, when a meeting notice will be posted in the Federal Register (the official journal of the federal government).

My colleague Beverly Robinson is in the process of contacting all members to get you into our travel system, which will allow us to arrange and pay for your air-travel and reimburse you for other IWCC meeting-related travel and lodging costs. If you have any travel-related questions, do not hesitate to contact Beverly at 703 358-2393 (or beverly_robinson@fws.gov). Please do not book your airline tickets until you've talked with Beverly!

I've attached the official charter of the IWCC, which provides a description of the Council and its duties. Below is the list of your fellow IWCC members and - as outlined in your appointment letter - the constituent group Secretary Zinke assigned you to represent:

- Paul Babaz Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations
- Bill Brewster U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation
- Ivan Carter U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation
- Steven Chancellor U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation
- Jenifer Chatfield Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations
- Cameron Hanes Archery and/or hunting sports industry
- Peter Horn The firearms or ammunition manufacturing industry
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- Mike Ingram U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation
- John Jackson Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations
- Gary Kania Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations
- Terry Maple Tourism, outfitter, and/or guide industries related to international hunting
- Keith Mark Tourism, outfitter, and/or guide industries related to international hunting
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- Denise Welker U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation

I look forward to meeting you all in a couple weeks.

-Joshua

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
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Cell (571) 329-1172

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[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Feb 28 2018 13:04:48 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Mike Ingram (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: IWCC Meeting Information

Mike,

A 5pm flight out should be doable. The meeting *should* be wrapped up by 3:30pm on Friday and it's a ~10 minute drive from Main Interior to DCA.

Unless you want to cover the cost of the flight yourself, please work with (or have Denise reach

out to) Beverly Robinson (703 358-2393, beverly_robinson@fws.gov) before making any flight arrangements.

-Joshua

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On Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 2:53 PM, Mike Ingram (b) (6) wrote:
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on behalf of Mike Ingram

(b) (6)

From: Winchell, Joshua [mailto:joshua_winchell@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:38 AM

To: Bill Brewster (b) (6); Cameron Hanes <cam@cameronhanes.com>; Chris Hudson (b) (6); Denise Welker <denise.welker@welker.com>; Erica Rhoad

(b) (6); Gary Steven Kania (b) (6); Ivan Carter

(b) (6); Jenifer Chatfield <(b) (6)>; John J. Jackson, III (b) (6)

(b) (6); Mike Ingram (b) (6)

Olivia Nalos Opre <(b) (6)>; Paul Babaz (b) (6); Peter

Lewis Horn II (b) (6); Steve Chancellor <(b) (6)>; Terry

Maple (b) (6)

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I look forward to meeting you all in a couple weeks.

-Joshua

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
International Wildlife Conservation Council

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Cell (571) 329-1172

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
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[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

"John J. Jackson, III" (b) (6)

From: "John J. Jackson, III" (b) (6) >
Sent: Wed Feb 28 2018 13:11:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
CC: "Robinson, Beverly" <beverly_robinson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: IWCC Meeting Information

Attachments: signature9.jpg

Joshua,

I already booked my flight and hotel. If it is a problem I will just bear the costs. I know better next trip.

Thanks,

John



On 2/28/2018 11:37 AM, Winchell, Joshua wrote:

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MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Feb 28 2018 22:43:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: IWCC Meeting Information

Thank you Natalie for these updates and for getting funding for coffee and donuts. That will be most appreciated I'm sure.

Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Feb 28, 2018, at 1:03 PM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thank you Joshua.

We have changed up the schedule a little. Also, we have approval to use the Secretary's rep fund for coffee and donuts, or some kind of food, in the morning for

"Coffee with Dep Sec" and a refill in afternoon during meeting.

Joshua, do you mind checking prices with downstairs to see what we could get? No more than \$200 for the entire day.

We will set up a 6 ft table in Dep Sec's office with coffee and food.

Please note that we just want to do coffee from 8:30-9:00.

Todd Willens approved this schedule and Chief of Staff approved use of rep fund.

Thanks!

8:30- 9am: Coffee with Deputy Secretary- In his office/balcony
9-10am: Administrative Session *Note*: Closed session, no public.
9:30-9:45am: *Note*: Open up meeting room to public, get them seated.
9:45-10am: Opening Remarks (Sheehan)
• *Note*: This starts the open/public mtg
10-10:30am: Member Introductions
10:30-11:30: FWS International Affairs Program Briefing (FWS)
11:30-12:30pm: State Department/U.S. Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking Briefing (State Dept./DOJ/USAID/FWS)
12:30-2pm: Lunch
2-3pm: Public Comment
3-3:30pm: Council Discussion
• *Note*: topics could include selection of chair/vice-chair; timeframe/location of next full meeting.
3:30pm Adjourn

On Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 12:42 PM, Winchell, Joshua <joshua_winchell@fws.gov> wrote:

Greg and Natalie,

FYI - I've had brief, introductory phone calls with all IWCC members and followed up with this email providing administrative info about the meeting.

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
International Wildlife Conservation Council

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Cell (571) 329-1172

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National Wildlife Refuge System
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Falls Church, VA 22041

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

From: **Winchell, Joshua** <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

Date: Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 12:37 PM

Subject: IWCC Meeting Information

To: Bill Brewster (b) (6) >, Cameron Hanes
<(b) (6)>, Chris Hudson (b) (6) >, Denise
Welker (b) (6) >, Erica Rhoad (b) (6) >,
Gary Steven Kania (b) (6) >, Ivan Carter
(b) (6) >, Jenifer Chatfield (b) (6) >, "John J.
Jackson, III" (b) (6) >, "K. Michael Ingram" (b) (6) >, Keith Mark
(b) (6) >, Olivia Nalos Opre
(b) (6) >, Paul Babaz (b) (6) >, Peter
Lewis Horn II (b) (6) >, Steve Chancellor
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My colleague Beverly Robinson is in the process of contacting all members to get you into our travel system, which will allow us to arrange and pay for your air-travel and reimburse you for other IWCC meeting-related travel and lodging costs. If you have any travel-related questions, do not hesitate to contact Beverly at 703 358-2393 (or beverly_robinson@fws.gov). Please do not book your airline tickets until you've talked with Beverly!

I've attached the official charter of the IWCC, which provides a description of the Council and its duties. Below is the list of your fellow IWCC members and - as outlined in your appointment letter - the constituent group Secretary Zinke assigned you to represent:

- Paul Babaz Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations
- Bill Brewster U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation
- Ivan Carter U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation
- Steven Chancellor U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation
- Jenifer Chatfield Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations
- Cameron Hanes Archery and/or hunting sports industry
- Peter Horn The firearms or ammunition manufacturing industry
- Chris Hudson Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations
- Mike Ingram U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic

hunting conservation

- John Jackson Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations
- Gary Kania Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations
- Terry Maple Tourism, outfitter, and/or guide industries related to international hunting
- Keith Mark Tourism, outfitter, and/or guide industries related to international hunting
- Olivia Opre U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation
- Erica Rhoad The firearms or ammunition manufacturing industry
- Denise Welker U.S. hunters actively engaged in int'l and/or domestic hunting conservation

I look forward to meeting you all in a couple weeks.

-Joshua

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
International Wildlife Conservation Council

Office (703) 358-2639
Cell (571) 329-1172

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Division of Visitor Services and Communications
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

--

Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

Mike Ingram (b) (6) >

From: Mike Ingram (b) (6)
Sent: Thu Mar 01 2018 09:14:37 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
CC: "Robinson, Beverly" <beverly_robinson@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: IWCC Meeting Information

I will cover my cost for air and will stay in the preferred hotel along with the other members. Just let me know that detail.

Thank you so much.

Thanks,

From: Winchell, Joshua [mailto:joshua_winchell@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 1:05 PM
To: Mike Ingram (b) (6)
Subject: Re: IWCC Meeting Information

Mike,

A 5pm flight out should be doable. The meeting *should* be wrapped up by 3:30pm on Friday and it's a ~10 minute drive from Main Interior to DCA.

Unless you want to cover the cost of the flight yourself, please work with (or have Denise reach out to) Beverly Robinson (703 358-2393, beverly_robinson@fws.gov) before making any flight arrangements.

-Joshua

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
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On Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 2:53 PM, Mike Ingram <(b) (6)> wrote:

Josh, the last flight out of DCA to Great Falls, Montana is at 5 p.m. on that Friday. Can I make this?

Thanks so much,
Mike Ingram

Denise M. Organ
on behalf of Mike Ingram
(b) (6)

From: Winchell, Joshua [mailto:joshua_winchell@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:38 AM
To: Bill Brewster <(b) (6)>; Cameron Hanes <(b) (6)>; Chris Hudson <(b) (6)>; Denise Welker <(b) (6)>; Erica Rhoad <(b) (6)>; Gary Steven Kania <(b) (6)>; Ivan Carter <(b) (6)>; Jenifer Chatfield <(b) (6)>; John J. Jackson, III <(b) (6)>; Mike Ingram <(b) (6)>; Keith Mark <(b) (6)>; Olivia Nalos Opre <(b) (6)>; Paul Babaz <(b) (6)>; Peter Lewis Horn II <(b) (6)>; Steve Chancellor <(b) (6)>; Terry Maple <(b) (6)>
Subject: IWCC Meeting Information

Council Members,

I wanted to send a quick note once again congratulating you on your appointment to the International Wildlife Conservation Council and re-confirming two important dates:

- **Thursday March 15th starting at 5:30pm:** Reception at the Main Interior Building ([1849 C St. NW, Washington, D.C.](#)) for IWCC members and senior DOI leadership followed by a group dinner.
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I look forward to meeting you all in a couple weeks.

-Joshua

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Falls Church, VA 22041

Erica Rhoad (b) (6)

From: Erica Rhoad (b) (6)
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 14:01:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: IWCC Meeting Information

Joshua—I'm on my way, but traffic is particularly horrible today. I should be there by 4:20.
Thanks

On Feb 28, 2018, at 12:37 PM, Winchell, Joshua <joshua_winchell@fws.gov> wrote:

Council Members,

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I look forward to meeting you all in a couple weeks.

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<IWCC Charter Signed and Filed.pdf>

Conversation Contents

IWCC mtg materials

Attachments:

/55. IWCC mtg materials/1.1 IWCC mtg agenda - discussion draft (1).pdf
/55. IWCC mtg materials/1.2 IWCC Charter Signed and Filed (1).pdf
/55. IWCC mtg materials/1.3 IWCC appointment letter (Babaz).pdf
/55. IWCC mtg materials/2.1 IWCC mtg agenda - discussion draft (1).pdf
/55. IWCC mtg materials/2.2 IWCC Charter Signed and Filed (1).pdf
/55. IWCC mtg materials/2.3 IWCC appointment letter (Babaz).pdf
/55. IWCC mtg materials/3.1 IWCC mtg agenda - discussion draft (1).pdf
/55. IWCC mtg materials/3.2 IWCC Charter Signed and Filed (1).pdf

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 14 2018 09:15:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Kimberly Hintz <kimberly.hintz@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: IWCC mtg materials
Attachments: IWCC mtg agenda - discussion draft (1).pdf IWCC Charter Signed and Filed (1).pdf IWCC appointment letter (Babaz).pdf

Kim,

Per our convo, attached is my internal planning agenda for meetings on March 16, the IWCC charter, and an example of the IWCC appointment letters.

The full list of IWCC members and the constituent group the Secretary tasked them to represent, is [here](#).

-Joshua

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Falls Church, VA 22041

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 14 2018 14:45:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jennifer Heindl <Jennifer.Heindl@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: IWCC mtg materials
Attachments: IWCC mtg agenda - discussion draft (1).pdf IWCC Charter Signed and Filed (1).pdf IWCC appointment letter (Babaz).pdf

FYI - I spoke with Hintz on the phone and she confirmed she will be at the administrative session.

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----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Winchell, Joshua** <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 11:15 AM
Subject: IWCC mtg materials
To: Kimberly Hintz <kimberly.hintz@sol.doi.gov>

Kim,

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"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 07:37:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Rowena P Watson <(b) (6)>
Subject: IWCC mtg materials
Attachments: IWCC mtg agenda - discussion draft (1).pdf IWCC Charter Signed and Filed (1).pdf

Rowena, attached is my internal planning agenda for meetings on March 16 and the IWCC charter. As one of the State ex officio members of the IWCC, you are welcome to join the morning reception at the Deputy Secretary's office (please RSVP if you do wish to attend) and I encourage you to attend the administrative session (closed to public) from 9-10am. Your name is on the visitor list at Main Interior.

The IWCC meeting itself starts at 10:15am.

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"Watson, Rowena P" (b) (6) >

From: "Watson, Rowena P" <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 13:55:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
"Dawson, Christine L (OES)" <DawsonCL@state.gov>,
CC: "Putney, Barton J" <PutneyBJ@state.gov>, "Thomas,

Holly Lindquist" <ThomasHL@state.gov>

Subject:

RE: IWCC mtg materials

Joshua,

Many Thanks – materials and instructions received. I look forward to attending the meeting tomorrow, and appreciate all of your coordination efforts. I will also be glad to join the morning reception at the Deputy Secretary's office.

Best Regards,
Rowena

Rowena Watson, Ph.D.
Team Lead, Wildlife Conservation/Combating Wildlife Trafficking
OES/ECW, Office of Conservation and Water, suite 2657
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW, Washington DC 20520
Office: 202 647 2151

(b) (6)

From: Winchell, Joshua [mailto:joshua_winchell@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Watson, Rowena P
Subject: IWCC mtg materials

Rowena, attached is my internal planning agenda for meetings on March 16 and the IWCC charter. As one of the State ex officio members of the IWCC, you are welcome to join the morning reception at the Deputy Secretary's office (please RSVP if you do wish to attend) and I encourage you to attend the administrative session (closed to public) from 9-10am. Your name is on the visitor list at Main Interior.

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Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Conversation Contents

AWCP meeting and advisory councils

"Recce, Susan" <SRecce@nrahq.org>

From: "Recce, Susan" (b) (6) >
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 13:28:35 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Joshua_Winchell@fws.gov" <Joshua_Winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: AWCP meeting and advisory councils

Hi Joshua,

The AWCP agenda went out today and I see you are on the agenda to speak about the "newly formed Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council and the International Wildlife Conservation Council." Has the Hunting Council been selected? Maybe missed the announcement. I know that the International Council is meeting tomorrow as its first meeting.

Thanks,
Susan

Conversation Contents

current list of attendees for IWCC mtg

Attachments:

/57. current list of attendees for IWCC mtg/1.1 MIB visitor list March 16 IWCC mtg (1).xlsx

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 13:24:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: current list of attendees for IWCC mtg
Attachments: MIB visitor list March 16 IWCC mtg (1).xlsx

per your request here is the current list of IWCC mtg attendees (this list does not include DOI staff/leadership in attendance)

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
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Conversation Contents

Update- Coffee with IWCC members Friday, 3/16 @ 8:30 am

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 13:12:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Cassidy, Benjamin" <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Funes <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, Elinor Renner <elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, "Smethers, Lacey" <lacey_smethers@ios.doi.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)>, Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Wynn <todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Update- Coffee with IWCC members Friday, 3/16 @ 8:30 am

Location has changed from Dep Sec's office to Secretary's office.

--

Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

Conversation Contents

Updates

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 13:09:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Updates

Hi Joshua,

Deputy Chief of Staff would like to attend the dinner tonight.

Also, we are now going to host the breakfast and coffee in the Secretary's office- not the Deputy Secretary's office. I don't think there is a need to send another email to the members, but just wanted you to know.

Thanks!

--

Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 13:41:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Updates

Got it.

Agreed about no need for additional instructions ... since the last set of instructions I gave IWCC members was to wait for their escort (Ben) to take them up tomorrow morning for the reception.

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On Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 3:09 PM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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202.208.4928

Conversation Contents

attire for IWCC reception and mtg

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 07:19:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Bill Brewster <(b) (6)>, Cameron Hanes <(b) (6)>, Chris Hudson <(b) (6)>, Denise Welker <(b) (6)>, Erica Rhoad <(b) (6)>, Gary Steven Kania <(b) (6)>, Ivan Carter <(b) (6)>, Jenifer Chatfield <(b) (6)>, "John J. Jackson, III" <(b) (6)>, "K. Michael Ingram" <mi@edhi.net>, Keith Mark <(b) (6)>, Olivia Nalos Opre <(b) (6)>, Paul Babaz <(b) (6)>, Peter Lewis Horn II <(b) (6)>, Steve Chancellor <(b) (6)>, Terry Maple <(b) (6)>, Benjamin Cassidy <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
BCC:
Subject: attire for IWCC reception and mtg

I've received a few questions about appropriate attire for the March 15th reception/dinner and the March 16th meeting.

I suggest business casual with comfortable shoes (for some walking) for the March 15th reception and special event. Business attire for the March 16 meeting.

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
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"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 08:05:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: attire for IWCC reception and mtg

Sounds perfect!

On Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 9:19 AM, Winchell, Joshua <joshua_winchell@fws.gov> wrote:

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--

Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

ivan carter (b) (6) >

From: ivan carter <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 12:10:26 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: attire for IWCC reception and mtg

Joshua

I am stuck at the airport in Florida will be in later this afternoon but will miss the special event and likely the dinner also

Apologies
Imc

(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse the typos !

On 15 Mar 2018, at 9:19 AM, Winchell, Joshua <joshua_winchell@fws.gov> wrote:

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Conversation Contents

Re: Bios/applications of appointees - Invitation to collaborate

"Irwin, Thomas" <thomas_irwin@fws.gov>

From: "Irwin, Thomas" <thomas_irwin@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 11:44:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Bios/applications of appointees - Invitation to collaborate

Thanks got it!



thomas_irwin@fws.gov - (202) 208-4545
FWS Office of the Director - 1849 C Street NW - Room 3356 - Washington, DC 20240

On Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 1:29 PM, Joshua Winchell (via Google Drive) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com> wrote:

joshua_winchell@fws.gov has invited you to **contribute** to the following shared folder:

 [Bios/applications of appointees](#)



Thomas, here's the folder containing PDFs bios/applications for each of the 16 members of the IWCC.

Open

Google Drive: Have all your files within reach from any device.

Google LLC, [1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA](#)

Google™

Conversation Contents

IWCC

"Hinson, Alex" <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Hinson, Alex" <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 11:18:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: joshua_winchell@fws.gov
Subject: IWCC

Hey Joshua,

Can I get the email addresses for all members of the press coming to the meeting?

--

Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 11:26:35 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: gavin_shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: IWCC

Handing this off to you, to respond or hand off/up further as you desire!

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
International Wildlife Conservation Council

Office (703) 358-2639
Cell (571) 329-1172

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Division of Visitor Services and Communications
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

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

From: **Hinson, Alex** <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 1:18 PM
Subject: IWCC
To: joshua_winchell@fws.gov

Hey Joshua,

Can I get the email addresses for all members of the press coming to the meeting?

--

Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

"Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>

From: "Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 11:30:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: IWCC

Can you tell Alex to contact me? I only have a handful -- the ones that contacted me or my team directly. Did any contact you directly?

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

On Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 1:26 PM, Winchell, Joshua <joshua_winchell@fws.gov> wrote:
Handing this off to you, to respond or hand off/up further as you desire!

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MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

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

From: **Hinson, Alex** <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 1:18 PM
Subject: IWCC
To: joshua_winchell@fws.gov

Hey Joshua,

Can I get the email addresses for all members of the press coming to the meeting?

--

Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 11:36:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hinson, Alex" <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>
CC: gavin_shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: IWCC

Jani Actman <Jani.Actman@natgeo.com>,
John Bevir <bevirj@featurestory.com>,
"Biesecker, Michael" <MBiesecker@ap.org>,
Malcomb Brown <brownm@featurestory.com>,
"Cochrane, Emily" <emily.cochrane@nytimes.com>,
"Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <jdrouhy1@bloomberg.net>,
Michael Doyle <mduoyl@eenews.net>,
Stephanie Ebbs <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com>,
Sara Ganim <sara.ganim@cnn.com>,
Miranda Green <mgreen@thehill.com>,
Harry Horton <hortonh@featurestory.com>,
Stephanie Mencimer <smencimer@motherjones.com>,
Marianne Messina <mhdekm@aol.com>,
Daniel Ryntjes <danielr@featurestory.com>,
"Vogt, Heidi" <heidi.vogt@wsj.com>,
"Wallace, Gregory" <gregory.wallace@turner.com>

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
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International Wildlife Conservation Council

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Falls Church, VA 22041

On Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 1:18 PM, Hinson, Alex <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hey Joshua,

Can I get the email addresses for all members of the press coming to the meeting?

--

Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

Conversation Contents

change to Greg's dinner event tonight - 6:15pm at Carmine's

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 11:15:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Roslyn Sellars <Roslyn_Sellars@fws.gov>, Thomas Irwin <Thomas_Irwin@fws.gov>
Subject: change to Greg's dinner event tonight - 6:15pm at Carmine's

Roslyn and Thomas,

I just spoke with Greg on the phone and he is aware of the change, but I also wanted to let you know of a change to the dinner plan tonight:

IWCC Dinner
6:15pm March 15
Carmine's DC (Italian Restaurant)
425 7th St NW, Washington, DC 20004

I'll be there in advance to welcome guests, the reservation is under my name.

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
International Wildlife Conservation Council

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Cell (571) 329-1172

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Falls Church, VA 22041

Conversation Contents

agenda and dinner location

Attachments:

/65. agenda and dinner location/1.1 IWCC mtg agenda - discussion draft (1) (1).pdf

/65. agenda and dinner location/1.2 2018-2636-155489_Meeting Agenda_(2018-03-13-01-02-29) (1).pdf

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 11:13:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: agenda and dinner location
IWCC mtg agenda - discussion draft (1) (1).pdf 2018-2636-155489_Meeting Agenda_(2018-03-13-01-02-29) (1).pdf

6:15pm tonight
Carmine's Italian Rest.
425 7th St NW, Washington, DC 20004

Greg, I've included both our internal discussion draft agenda as well as the Meeting Agenda made available to the public.

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
International Wildlife Conservation Council

Office (703) 358-2639
Cell (571) 329-1172

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

Conversation Contents

additional nomination info

Attachments:

/66. additional nomination info/1.1 IWCC nomination + resume (12.8.17).pdf

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 10:21:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Margaret A Tribsch <Margaret_Tribsch@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: additional nomination info
Attachments: IWCC nomination + resume (12.8.17).pdf

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
International Wildlife Conservation Council

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Cell (571) 329-1172

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
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[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041



Conversation Contents

Iwcc agenda

Doug Hobbs <doug_hobbs@fws.gov>

From: Doug Hobbs <doug_hobbs@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 08:10:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Iwcc agenda

Can you please forward the agenda? Also, are there any seats left for the meeting? Standing room?

Sent from my iPhone

Conversation Contents

FYI - Kaush Arha ex officio for State Dept.

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 07:09:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: FYI - Kaush Arha ex officio for State Dept.

Greg - see email from Melissa Simpson, below.

I will send materials to Kaush shortly.

Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
International Wildlife Conservation Council

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Cell (571) 329-1172

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Division of Visitor Services and Communications
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

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

From: **Simpson, Melissa M** <SimpsonMM@state.gov>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 9:13 PM
Subject: International Hinting Council
To: "joshua_winchell@fws.gov" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Cc: "Arha, Kaushalendra (E3/AA)" <(b) (6)>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

Hello Joshua,

I hope that all is well with you.

I am writing to let you know that we have had a change in plans at State. Kaush Arha, USAID, Senior Advisor Environment, Economic Growth and Education, will represent the State Department on the Council. Kaush has an ongoing dialog with DOI on international hunting issues and has been a leader in the area for some time.

He is CC'd here. Please send him the information for the meeting on Friday.

Best, Melissa

Melissa Simpson
Senior Advisor
Bureau of Energy Resources
U.S. Department of State
202-297-2924 cell

Conversation Contents

Appropriation Hearing Q and A

"Brown, Andrew" <andrew_brown@fws.gov>

From: "Brown, Andrew" <andrew_brown@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 07:05:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Joshua Winchell <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Appropriation Hearing Q and A

Hi Joshua,

Division of Budget is working to develop a set of questions and answers to prepare the Principal Deputy Director for hearings on the FY 2019 President's budget with Appropriations Subcommittees for Interior. The dates for these hearings have not yet been set.

One topic we anticipate a Congress members to ask about in a question is the International Wildlife Conservation Council. Can you please review this draft question and answer and provide any edits?

Thank you.

What are the goals of the International Wildlife Conservation Council? What is its status? Do you have any representation from the conservation community on the Council?

Response

The Council will advise the Secretary of the Interior on the benefits that international recreational hunting has on foreign wildlife and habitat conservation, anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking programs, and other ways in which international hunting benefits human populations. This past November a call for nominations was announced in a Federal Register notice that asked for public input on nominations by December 8, 2017. The Council is holding its first meeting on March 16. Council membership is available on the Federal Advisory Committee Act website.

--

Andrew Brown
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Budget
Phone: (703) 358-2179
Fax: (703) 358-2269

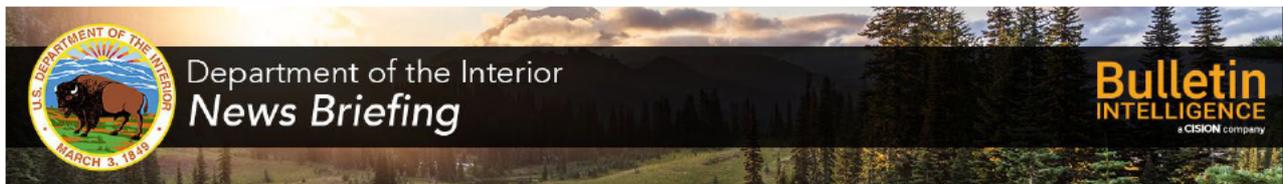
Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 15, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu Mar 15 2018 04:00:07 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.



DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

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- Lewiston (ME) Sun Journal: Whistleblower Denounces Trump's Failure To Tackle Climate Change.

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- Alamosa (CO) Valley Courier: BLM Oil/gas Leases Draw Concerns.
- Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus: Keller Receives NMCGA Award.

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- Trump's OCS Drilling Plan Draws Cheers, Jeers From Coastal Elected Officials.
- Offshore Drilling Meeting Battles Clock, Weather.
- Could N.J. Offshore Drill Plan Be Dead? Local Congressmen Are Optimistic.
- AG Healey Pledges To Fight Trump Offshore Drilling Plan Along Massachusetts Coast.
- Commissioners Serenaded At Meeting About Offshore Drilling.

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- Klamath River Fish-kill Preventive Dam Releases Challenged By Farmers, Water Districts.
- Heller Introduces Bill To Reauthorize Colorado River Program.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Washington Examiner: Ellen DeGeneres Calls On Trump To Reverse Elephant Trophy Decision: 'Don't Make Me Tweet About This'.
- The Hill: Animal Rights Group Sues For Details On Interior's Pro-Hunting Group.
- Miami Herald: Miami Federal Judge Rejects Bid To Stop Walmart In Rare Miami Forest.
- Mitchell (SD) Daily Republic: Environmental Assessment Done For Clark County Wind Proposal.
- KWMU-FM St. Louis: Environmental Regulators Are Trying To Turn A Former Lead Mining Site Back Into A Forest.
- Associated Press: 3rd Lawsuit Filed Over Colorado's Predator Reduction Studies.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Moapa Dace Population Holds Steady In Latest Count Of Endangered Fish.

National Park Service

- Associated Press: Historic Black Church With W.E.B. Du Bois Ties Gets Grant.
- Associated Press: \$500K Grant Will Restore Historic Building At Fort Huachuca.
- Greene County (VA) Record: 100,000-plus Comments Received On Proposed Fee Hike.
- Associated Press: Fix To Keep Worm Diggers In National Park Gets House OK.
- Associated Press: Comment Wanted For Potential Design For DC War Memorial.
- Charlotte (NC) Observer: Virginia Man Still Claims Ownership Of Vanished NC Island.
- Associated Press: Waterline Breaks Lead To Restrictions At Grand Canyon Park.
- Cody (WY) Enterprise: Reconstruction Of Beartooth Highway Continues With Grant.
- KTNV-TV Las Vegas: Truck Crash Results In Hazmat Spill In Death Valley National Park.

Insular And International Affairs

- Close Up Program Gets \$900,000.

US Geological Survey

- Discover Magazine: Scientists Record Volcanic Thunder For The First Time.
- Idyllwild (CA) Town Crier: Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Not Forgotten.

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- Parks Should Be Affordable For All.
- Panhandle At Risk For BP-Style Blowout: Guestview.
- BLM Plan Is On The Right Track For Public Lands.
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- KPLR-TV St. Louis: Trump Touts Tax Reform Law, Says He Is Ready To Launch "Phase Two."
- CNBC: Trump Picks Kudlow As Cohn Replacement.
- CBS: White House: US "Stands In Solidarity" With UK On Russia Accusations.
- NBC: Media Analyses: Lamb's Showing Signals Possible Democratic Wave In November.
- ABC: High School Students Stage Walkout Across Nation In Support Of Gun Control.
- Washington Post: Cabinet Members Make Case For "Transformative" Infrastructure Projects.
- Washington Post: In 61-31 Vote, Senate Passes "Sweeping Rollback" Of Dodd-Frank.

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- Washington Post.
 - "Britain Is Punishing Putin. America Should Join In."
 - "What The Pennsylvania Election Should Teach Both Parties."
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DOI In The News

Trump Cabinet Members Accused Of Living Large At Taxpayer Expense.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Eilperin, Dennis) reports that President Trump, who last year "extolled the virtues of the men and women" in his Cabinet, now "finds himself presiding over a Cabinet in which a number of members stand accused of living large at taxpayer expense – often by aggressively embracing the trappings of their high government posts. At least a half-dozen current or former Trump Cabinet officials have been mired in federal investigations over everything from high-end travel and spending on items such as a soundproof phone booth to the role of family members weighing in on official business." The Post specifically cites controversies surrounding HUD Secretary Carson, EPA Administrator Pruitt, VA Secretary Shulkin, Interior Secretary Zinke, and ex-HHS Secretary Tom Price.

[CNN](#) (3/14, Liptak, Marsh) reports that Trump is "openly wondering what happened to the collection of officials he described only five months ago as the 'finest group of people ever assembled' as members of his Cabinet find themselves embroiled in ethics scandals or woefully at odds with the White House." Trump has "complained in recent days that his Cabinet has fallen well short of his expectations and wants to purge all the 'deadweight,' one official said."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (3/14, Lemire).

A Watchdog Group Sues 16 Federal Agencies For Records Of Office Upgrade Expenses. [Pacific Standard](#) (3/14, Wheeling) reports that "American Oversight, a liberal watchdog group, filed a lawsuit Wednesday against 16 federal agencies for failing to respond to Freedom of Information Act requests made in November." The group is "seeking records of "actual or projected expenses" related to office renovations or upgrades for senior officials at the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Interior, Justice, Labor, Transportation, Treasury, Veterans Affairs, and State, as well as the Office of Management and Budget and the General Services Administration."

Interior Leaders Talk Progress On Priorities After Year Under Trump.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (3/14, Brehmer) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary Dave Bernhardt and Assistant Secretary Joe Balash visited Anchorage on March 8 "to report on the progress of Interior's work during the first year of the Trump

administration." Addressing the biweekly breakfast gathering of Alaska Support Industry Alliance members, Bernhardt said, "We had a very, very productive year if you compare our policy development to prior administrations." Balash commented, "Every day I get to work on something related to Alaska." Bernhardt "said Balash's work will likely continue to be Alaska-centric as the Bureau of Land Management should be publishing a Notice of Intent to initiate the environmental impact statement process for ANWR lease sales within several weeks."

US Plans To Complete ANWR Lease Review In 2019. [Argus Media](#) (3/14) reports that the Interior Department hopes to complete an environmental review of oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by early 2019 so that it can then begin holding lease sales for Alaska's coastal plain. Potential leasing in that area is likely to spark "years of litigation and protests," which could dampen industry interest in the lease sale. American Petroleum Institute chief economist Dean Foreman said that oil companies are likely to be interested in exploration in the area "with a view to augment their reserve base." Foreman said, "We can use modern technology to discover where the resource potential is in ways that have not been possible or permitted up to this point."

Interior Unprepared For Cyber Threats.

[Federal Computer Week](#) (3/14, Gunter) reports that the Interior Department is "vulnerable to the theft of sensitive data, unprepared to detect and deal with cyber threats and failing to keep users on its computer network from visiting – downloading materials from – illicit websites, according to a new watchdog report." According to the article, "during testing at a U.S. Geological Survey facility as part of a department-wide audit, Interior's inspector general, working with independent accounting firm KPMG, identified a 'workstation attempting to communicate with IP addresses of known malware command and control website in Russia.'" The machine, Interior later found, "had been compromised." Auditors also found that "inappropriate and risky network behavior occurred undetected...due to deficiencies and inconsistencies in Interior's Office of the CIO incident response program."

Oil Group To Lobby President After Stay At Trump Hotel.

[Politico](#) (3/14, Lefebvre) reports that the American Petroleum Institute is holding its annual board meeting at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, "before its executive committee goes to the White House to voice concerns about President Donald Trump's proposed steel tariffs, sources familiar with the meetings told POLITICO." API's meeting "could involve up to 200 people representing various oil and gas companies – including the top executives of major oil companies – paying to stay at Trump's hotel." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Energy Secretary Rick Perry "are scheduled to attend the board meeting at the Trump Hotel on Wednesday night, two sources told POLITICO."

Zinke Criticized For Wild-West Mentality Over Oil And Gas.

[UPI](#) (3/14, Graeber) reports that critics of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who has defended the strategy of energy dominance, say he is "out of step with the will of the people." Last month, Florida Petroleum Council Executive Director David Mica said that allowing offshore drilling in Florida could bring in new sources of revenue and enrich the state's economic diversity. However, Sen. Bill Nelson said during a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "that was something his constituents didn't want to hear."

Additional coverage of the hearing was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/14, Passut) and [Platts](#) (3/14, Saville).

Interior Will Send \$18M From Roan Drilling To Colorado.

The [AP](#) (3/14) reports that the Interior Department will "send \$18 million from oil and gas development from Colorado's Roan Plateau back to the state," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced Tuesday during a Senate committee hearing. According to the article, "the money is leftover from the cleanup of Anvil Points, a naval oil shale research

site northwest of Rifle." Pending state legislation "would send it to four northwestern Colorado counties – directly to Rio Blanco and Moffat counties and to federal mineral lease districts in Mesa and Garfield counties."

Big Tax Break For Coal In Arizona Stalls Out At The Legislature.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/14, Randazzo) reports Arizona lawmakers on Wednesday "debated but failed to pass a proposal to give about \$12 million in annual tax breaks for coal sales...in an effort to save the Navajo Generating Station power plant, which is closing next year." According to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Mark Finchem "potential buyers are looking at the power plant, but are unlikely to step in and save it without the tax break." Peabody Energy is the owner of the Kayenta Mine on Navajo and Hopi land in northern Arizona, which sells coal to the facility. "If the plant closes, so will the mine." Finchem contends "that taxes on the coal are illegal, but the courts have not recognized that." Finchem's bill passed "the House but was held in the Senate Finance committee Wednesday."

Advocates Fight To Save Grant That Helps Preserve History Of World War II Internment.

[NBC News](#) (3/14, Kandil) reports that "a federal grant program aimed at preserving the history of World War II-era Japanese-American incarceration could be in danger under President Donald Trump's proposed 2019 budget." The budget proposal "declines to request funding for the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program, which has provided more than \$21 million of funding for the research and preservation of World War II-era incarceration camps, collection centers, and Department of Justice prisons over nearly a decade." Heather Swift, Department of the Interior press secretary, said, "The proposed budget makes a historic investment in our National Parks infrastructure backlog. The budget prioritizes funding for core operations in the National Park System and addressing the \$11.6 deferred maintenance backlog in parks across the nation through the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. The budget request identifies savings in other programs, including some competitive grant programs." The nonprofit Japanese American Citizens League is "encouraging people to contact their representatives about the issue before Friday, the deadline for members of Congress to submit their requests for funding."

Poll: Montanans Split On Elected Officials, Dislike Zinke's Recommendations For Monuments.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/14, Szpaller) reports that "Montanans are divided over the job performance of statewide elected officials but generally disapprove of U.S. Department of the Interior recommendations to reduce the size of national monuments, according to results of a new poll announced Thursday by the University of Montana." According to UM's inaugural Big Sky Poll, "some 62 percent of Montanans polled disapproved of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations to decrease the size of national monuments," while "29 percent approved of the recommendations, and an estimated 9 percent declined to answer the question." The article says that "according to UM, the poll was conducted via telephone between Feb. 1 and Feb. 19 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level."

Conservationists Launch Anti-Gianforte Campaign.

The [AP](#) (3/14, Volz) reports that "a conservation group is launching an ad campaign that repeatedly accuses U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte of 'assaulting' and 'attacking' public lands since he's been in office, a veiled reference to the Montana Republican's attack of a reporter last year." League of Conservation Voters officials "said they are spending \$244,000 on ads through April, the first significant outside group spending in Gianforte's nascent re-election campaign." The League of Conservation Voters officials insist "the ad campaign is not about Gianforte's re-election, but about bills pending in Congress."

Whistleblower Denounces Trump's Failure To Tackle Climate Change.

The [Lewiston \(ME\) Sun Journal](#) (3/14, Collins) reports that Joel Clement, "former director of the U.S. Office of Policy Analysis and the top climate-change policy official at the Department of Interior," spoke at Bates College on Wednesday evening. Clement claimed that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "could not just clean house of career bureaucrats whose jobs are protected by law," so "he wound up transferring executives in the hope of driving them to quit." But "rather than go quietly off to a new home in Tulsa, Clement got a lawyer, filed a whistleblower complaint and took to the pages of The Washington Post to denounce what he saw going on within the department." He resigned in October.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

WATCH: Elouise Cobell Fights For Native Americans In '100 Years'.

The [ColorLines](#) (3/14, Rao) reports that PBS/World Channel on Tuesday night aired a documentary on "how banker Elouise Cobell fought the United States government for the billions of dollars it owed Indigenous landowners." The film "explores how Cobell, a member of the Blackfeet Nation and founder of the tribe-operated Blackfeet National Bank, discovered several financial abuses at the Bureau of Indian Affairs throughout the 1980s and '90s."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Oil/gas Leases Draw Concerns.

The [Alamosa \(CO\) Valley Courier](#) (3/14, Heide) reports that local residents are concerned about the impact of oil and gas leases near the Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve. The Bureau of Land Management "plans to offer about a dozen parcels for potential oil and gas sale leases in September and will be releasing an environmental assessment regarding the parcels next week, with the public allowed 15 days afterwards (until April 6) to comment on the environmental assessment." Anna Lee Vargas, director, Project Management and Community Outreach for Conejos Clean Water, said, "We are so conscious as community members of our land and our water, air quality, water quality. We just don't want anything to impact that."

Keller Receives NMCGA Award.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (3/14) reports that "Ray Keller received the 2017 Ayudando Siempre Alli Award from the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association (NMCGA) at the Joint Stockmen's Convention recently held in Albuquerque." At the Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office, Keller "spearheaded the Restore New Mexico program that put funds from the National Resource Conservation Service EQIP program together with private dollars to change the face of the landscape of southeastern New Mexico." According to the article, "through his efforts, over 3 million acres have been treated with programs ranging from invasive species control and noxious weed treatment." NMCGA President Tom Sidwell said, "We truly appreciate the work that Ray has put into improving landscapes in southeastern New Mexico."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Trump's OCS Drilling Plan Draws Cheers, Jeers From Coastal Elected Officials.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/13, Passut) reports elected officials from coastal states "took disparate views over the Trump administration's proposal to open more than 90% of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to oil and natural gas exploration, which garnered more than 630,000 public comments." Most of the comments "appeared to be in opposition to the draft proposed program (DPP) for the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024, which the Department of Interior's (DOI) Bureau of Ocean Energy

Management unveiled earlier this year.”

Offshore Drilling Meeting Battles Clock, Weather.

The [Ellsworth \(ME\) American](#) (3/13, Rappaport) reports that a recent Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) recently held a meeting in Maine to discuss the Trump Administration’s offshore drilling plan, but the meeting was held only one day before the close of the public comments period and took place hours before a winter storm. The article highlights opposition to the plan from Maine congressmen and local residents.

Could N.J. Offshore Drill Plan Be Dead? Local Congressmen Are Optimistic.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/28, Kummer) reports that several New Jersey members of Congress “say they met Tuesday with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and they came away from the conversation believing drilling off the state’s coast is unlikely.” However, Zinke “has not officially removed New Jersey from the list of areas under consideration for offshore exploration and drilling for natural gas and oil. Florida has already been removed.”

AG Healey Pledges To Fight Trump Offshore Drilling Plan Along Massachusetts Coast.

The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (3/13, Serreze) reports Attorney General Maura Healey on Monday “vowed to fight federal plans to open the Massachusetts coastline to offshore oil and gas drilling.” Healey said, “Massachusetts does not want drilling off our coast and I will fight this proposal to defend our state and our residents. ... Of all the bad environmental ideas the Trump administration has proposed, this one may take the cake.”

Commissioners Serenaded At Meeting About Offshore Drilling.

[KXRO-AM](#) Aberdeen, WA (3/13) reports that a group of people in Washington state “serenaded the Grays Harbor County Commissioners showing their opposition to offshore oil drilling but a resolution was still not brought to the floor.” The group’s effort was part of a bid to get the commissioners to pass a resolution against offshore drilling.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Klamath River Fish-kill Preventive Dam Releases Challenged By Farmers, Water Districts.

The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (3/14, Houston) reports that “local tribes’ say critically important dam water releases meant to protect threatened salmon on the Klamath River from deadly parasitic disease outbreaks are being contested by irrigators and water districts in the Klamath Basin as they face drought conditions.” According to the article, “basin ranchers, farmers and water districts argue in a federal court filing this month that the potential for fish disease outbreaks this year is low, but that the drought conditions the basin faces could cause significant economic impacts to their region.” Bureau of Reclamation public affairs officer Erin Curtis “said the basin does not have enough water to provide for both irrigators and the dam releases without lowering water levels at Upper Klamath Lake.”

Heller Introduces Bill To Reauthorize Colorado River Program.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/14, Martin) reports that “legislation has been introduced in the Senate to reauthorize the Colorado River System Conservation Program critical to water supplies for Southern Nevada.” Sen. Dean Heller “filed the bill to reauthorize for four years the conservation program, first passed by Congress in 2015 to conserve water and mitigate impacts of drought in the Colorado River Basin.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Ellen DeGeneres Calls On Trump To Reverse Elephant Trophy Decision: ‘Don’t Make Me Tweet About This’.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/14, Mayfield) reports that “talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is again calling on President Trump to reverse his administration’s decision to allow elephant body parts into the U.S. as trophies.” In a clip of her show shared on social media Wednesday, DeGeneres said, “Mr. President, I am begging you to change your mind and protect these majestic animals. Don’t make me tweet about this.” She added, “I don’t wanna get into a battle of words or anything ... but I have a Twitter account, too, and mine is much bigger than yours.”

Animal Rights Group Sues For Details On Interior’s Pro-Hunting Group.

[The Hill](#) (3/14, Green) reports that “an animals rights group is suing the Interior Department after the agency failed to provide details on a new advisory group created to advocate for international hunting.” The group Born Free USA “filed a suit against Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service on Wednesday, arguing that the agency failed to provide details they requested in a November Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request about the agency’s International Wildlife Conservation Council (IWCC).” The group’s “initial November FOIA request asked for documents related to the duties of the IWCC, the circumstance for its creation and the criteria in which its members were selected.” The organization “additionally requested in their FOIA that FWS provide them with ‘the authority’ that was used to create the group.” The suit claim “that FWS failed to meet its deadline to provide the requested details.”

Miami Federal Judge Rejects Bid To Stop Walmart In Rare Miami Forest.

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/14, Staletovich) reports that “a Miami federal judge has lifted a temporary stop to construction on a Walmart-anchored shopping center on rare pine rockland and hinted that environmentalists are unlikely to win their battle in court.” It’s unclear “when Palm Beach County developer Peter Cummings will resume work on the planned shopping center and apartments spread across nearly 140 acres near Zoo Miami.” However, “environmentalists, armed with additional information released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since the case was argued, said they plan to keep fighting a project that could pave over one of the largest remaining tracts of pineland outside Everglades National Park.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Miami New Times](#) (3/14, Iannelli) and [Law360](#) (3/14, Bolado).

Environmental Assessment Done For Clark County Wind Proposal.

The [Mitchell \(SD\) Daily Republic](#) (3/14, Mercer) reports that “the Crocker wind farm proposed in Clark County has 14 turbine sites that would be swapped for other ground because they are on federal grassland easements, according an environmental assessment from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The FWS “released a report Wednesday on the project. Geronimo Energy, the project developer, wants to build 120 wind towers on a variety of privately held properties, including the 14 federal easements.” According to the report, “Geronimo Energy would voluntarily swap land with the federal government on a two-to-one basis after construction has finished.”

Environmental Regulators Are Trying To Turn A Former Lead Mining Site Back Into A Forest.

[KWMU-FM](#) St. Louis (3/14, Chen) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources are “restoring a portion of Missouri’s Old Lead Belt back into a forest.” According to John Weber, an environmental contaminants specialist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, “the reforestation could improve local water quality, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitats.” He said, “It’s important for people who are recreating in the river, whether they are fishing or floating. It’s important for downstream species of mussels. There’s some species listed on the endangered species list that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned about.”

3rd Lawsuit Filed Over Colorado's Predator Reduction Studies.

The [AP](#) (3/14) reports that "activist groups have filed a third lawsuit in connection to Colorado Parks and Wildlife research projects that aim to determine whether reducing predators could help mule deer numbers." The lawsuit "filed last week targets the research's primary funding source – the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – which authorized more than \$3.4 million in funding."

Moapa Dace Population Holds Steady In Latest Count Of Endangered Fish.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/14, Brean) reports that results for the latest count for Clark County's most endangered fish is "mixed." According to the article, "while researchers were relieved to see the Moapa dace population holding steady at 1,138 adult fish, they would prefer some real improvement for a species that's been under federal protection for just over 50 years." Michael Schwemm, senior fish biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Southern Nevada, said, "We're not in a crisis mode where the species is declining. But we're not happy with the status quo. We want to see things improve."

National Park Service

Historic Black Church With W.E.B. Du Bois Ties Gets Grant.

The [AP](#) (3/14) reports that "preservationists for a 130-year-old black church with ties to civil rights pioneer W.E.B. Du Bois have received federal grant money to turn it into a community center." The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area was awarded \$389,000 from the National Park Service African American Civil Rights Grants Program "Tuesday to restore the Clinton AME Zion Church in Great Barrington, near the New York and Connecticut borders."

\$500K Grand Will Restore Historic Building At Fort Huachuca.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that "Arizona State Parks and Trails has received \$500,000 in grant funding from the National Park Service to restore the Mountain View Officers' Club at Fort Huachuca." The State Historic Preservation Office, a division of Arizona State Parks and Trails, has "been involved in a long-standing effort to preserve and protect the World War II-era black officers' club, which is one of two such documented buildings in the U.S. Army."

100,000-plus Comments Received On Proposed Fee Hike.

The [Greene County \(VA\) Record](#) (3/14, Brooks) reports that the National Park Service is "poring over comments received on proposed peak-season fee increases." According to the article, "109,111 comments were received, with 1,004 specifically mentioning Shenandoah National Park." The article says that "a glance at the first 100 shows a close split of 59 against the proposal, 37 for it and four offering other suggestions such as charging non-U.S. residents a higher fee."

Advisory Panel Slams Fee Hikes. The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (3/14, Broom) reports that "members of the Acadia Advisory Commission voted unanimously on Monday to formally oppose the higher park entrance fees that have been proposed for Acadia during its peak visitation season, June through October." Acadia Advisory Commission member Matt Horton "said at Monday's meeting that he has heard from many people who feel the proposed increases are excessive." The NPS said the fee increases were necessary to generate "badly needed revenue for improvements to the aging infrastructure of the national parks."

Fix To Keep Worm Diggers In National Park Gets House OK.

The [AP](#) (3/14, Whittle) reports that the U.S. House of Representatives "unanimously signed off on a bill late Tuesday designed to allow" commercial harvesters of "marketable species to continuing plying their trade" near Acadia National Park. In recent years, the

harvesters have claimed "they've faced enforcement from National Park Service personnel who have told them it's prohibited." A similar bill has been proposed in the Senate by Sen. Angus King, "but has yet to make it to a committee vote."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (3/15).

Comment Wanted For Potential Design For DC War Memorial.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, "in cooperation with the National Park Service, is looking for public comments on the potential design of a memorial that the US Congress authorized the establishment of on federal land in Washington, D.C." The National Park Service "said in a statement that the purpose of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial is to commemorate and honor members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield." The comment period closes on April 13.

Virginia Man Still Claims Ownership Of Vanished NC Island.

The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (3/14, Price) reports that "North Carolina's Shelly Island may have vanished below ocean waters – possibly forever – but that's not discouraging the Virginia man who filed a deed for ownership of the mysterious landmass." Ken Barlow "says his mile-long island is still there...but its no longer a separate island. It has merged – at least in part – with nearby Cape Point, he says." The National Park Service has "never conceded Barlow owned the 27-acre island." Although "the island vanished before the dispute reached the courts," Barlow is "undeterred." He said, "I will NEVER relinquish what I own to the National Park Service. I will defend that property with the necessary force to repel invaders, such as the NPS.... Dare County Records of Deeds says I own this property. End of story."

Waterline Breaks Lead To Restrictions At Grand Canyon Park.

The [AP](#) (3/14) reports that "due to a series of breaks in the Transcanyon Waterline, Grand Canyon National Park has implemented water conservation measures." According to officials, "the park will remain in conservation mode until staff repairs the break and water in storage tanks reaches sustainable levels."

Reconstruction Of Beartooth Highway Continues With Grant.

The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (3/14) reports the Department of Transportation recently awarded the Wyoming Department of Transportation a \$16.6 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant to reconstruct the final 1.6-mile segment of Beartooth Highway. The Beartooth Steering Committee includes the WDOT, Montana Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Yellowstone National Park, US Forest Service, Wyoming and Montana congressional staff, and other organizations.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/14).

Truck Crash Results In Hazmat Spill In Death Valley National Park.

[KTNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (3/14) reports that "a crash resulted in a hazardous materials situation at Death Valley National Park earlier this week." According to the article, "around 2:15 p.m. on Monday, March 12, a truck driver heading eastbound on California Highway 190 lost control of his vehicle near Emigrant Campground." The vehicle "careened into the desert, landed on its side, and caught on fire."

Insular And International Affairs

Close Up Program Gets \$900,000.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (3/15) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech has "authorized a payment of \$900,000 for fiscal

year 2018 funding of the Close Up Insular Area Program." According to the article, "this year's program will bring approximately 190 high school-aged students from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the freely associated states of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau, to Washington, D.C. for civic education programs alongside their peers from the 50 states." Domenech said, "The goal of this program is to highlight models of American democratic institutions and to foster in youth the interest, knowledge, and skills needed to effectively participate in a democracy. Bringing the students from the islands allows them to have critical exchange and sharing experiences with students from the States."

US Geological Survey

Scientists Record Volcanic Thunder For The First Time.

[Discover Magazine](#) (3/14, Scharping) reports that researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey "say they have finally captured a recording" of volcanic thunder, "during the 2017 eruption of Bogoslof in Alaska." The findings were published Tuesday in *Geophysical Research Letters*.

Additional coverage was provided by [Newsweek](#) (3/14, Bartels).

Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Not Forgotten.

The [Idyllwild \(CA\) Town Crier](#) (3/14, Crumrine) reports that "efforts to save the endangered Mountain yellow-legged frog in the San Jacinto Mountains have been limited in the five years since the 2013 Mountain Fire." The article notes that "most of the efforts on the frogs' behalf have focused on the San Gabriel Mountains." However, Adam Backlin, a U.S. Geological Survey biologist, "said that will be changing with the help of the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska." Backlin said, "The herpetologist there has been working with similar frogs in the desert southwest for 20 years. He has been very successful with captive husbandry."

Opinion Pieces

Parks Should Be Affordable For All.

In an editorial, the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (3/14) argues that national parks were "never intended to be a money-making proposition, and should not be converted into one." The paper acknowledges that "fees are a good idea to help maintain parks" but opposes a proposal to increase fees at national parks to the extent that they become unaffordable for some.

Panhandle At Risk For BP-Style Blowout: Guestview.

In a piece for the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (3/11, Graham, Beinecke), Bob Graham and Frances Beinecke argue that the Trump Administration is ushering in a "dangerous and foolhardy combination" of "expanding the reach of oil and gas drilling while rolling back common-sense safeguards drawn from the lessons of the Deepwater Horizon disaster." The authors claim "Congress continues to operate in a state of denial" as this "is putting Florida's Panhandle at increased risk for the next BP-style blowout."

BLM Plan Is On The Right Track For Public Lands.

In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/14, Herzer), John Herzer, owner of Blackfoot River Outfitters in Missoula and Flint Creek Outdoors in Philipsburg, writes that he gave the Bureau of Land Management "low marks" 25 years ago, but "over the years that agency has taken on a more active role in managing those parcels with an eye to the future and conservation." Although he doesn't "agree with all their decisions," Herzer believes "they are on a much better path." Herzer lauds the BLM office "for trying new ways to involve the public in resource management planning, as well as new tools for managing public lands."

Additional Reading.

- *Here's The Case: Trump Has The Worst Cabinet Ever.* [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Rubin).
- *Republican Politicians Should Support The Outdoor Industry.* [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/15, Grijalva).
- *Coal Mine Reclaim Act Sidetracked By Companies And Miners Pay Price.* [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/14, Hescox).
- *Guest Opinion: Gianforte Doesn't Get Montana's Public Lands.* [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/14, Burglund, Miller).
- *Governor's Repeated Extensions Of State Of Emergency Further Tramples On VI Laws Requiring Financial Accountability And Transparency.* [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (3/14, Diase-Coffelt).

Top National News

Trump Touts Tax Reform Law, Says He Is Ready To Launch "Phase Two."

The President's visit to St. Louis yesterday generated largely favorable local coverage, which focused on his defense of his tax reform law and his apparent preview of an additional push for more tax cuts. National media, on the other hand, covered the story sparingly, with the major network newscasts skipping it altogether.

📺 [KPLR-TV](#) St. Louis (3/14, 7:02 p.m. CDT) reported that the President "called St. Louis, quote, 'a great place, a place that was really good to me,' unquote." Trump "visited the Boeing plant in North St. Louis County," and "held a roundtable meeting" with "representatives from ten companies across the state, all of which have said that the Trump tax plan has had a positive impact on their businesses." KPLR added that Trump "told the Missouri business leaders he is ready to being 'phase two' of his tax reform plan, a plan he says that will provide tremendous incentives for workers."

📺 [KMOV-TV](#) St. Louis (3/14, 5:02 p.m. CDT) also reported "eighteen people, including the President, sat around the horseshoe table sharing how tax cuts impacted their own lives." 📺 [KOMU-TV](#) Columbia, MO (3/14, 6:04 p.m. CDT) reported that the businesses "say...Trump's tax reform allowed them to increase wages and announce bonuses," and 📺 [KTVI-TV](#) St. Louis (3/14, 6:32 p.m. CDT) that "many of the companies represented...gave their employees bonuses ranging from \$200 to \$1,000 each." Trump was shown saying, "We are now going for a phase two. We are actually going for a phase two, which...in addition to the middle class, will help companies, and it's going to be something, I think, very special."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/14, Boyer, Miller) reports Trump "said House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, Texas Republican, and members of the Senate are involved in the effort." Trump "hasn't specified what a second round of tax cuts would entail, and it's not clear whether congressional Republican leaders are ready for another such battle." However, "Rep. Roger Williams, Texas Republican and a member of the House Financial Services Committee, said Wednesday that he'd like to cut capital gains taxes, and to make permanent the individual tax cuts approved last December."

Typical of the tenor of national reporting was the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/14, Bierman), which headlined its story "Trump Returns From A Brief Trip To Greater Tumult Of His Own Making In Washington" and devotes most of the piece to casting a decidedly unfavorable light on the "chaos" surrounding the Administration. The Times reports in its final paragraphs that "as Trump bragged about a humming economy during the event at Boeing in Missouri, Democrats nationwide were seeing signs of the potential to capitalize on the new energy of young people and suburban women." Yet "in St. Louis," the President "met an enthusiastic crowd of supporters at the airport and shouts of 'Keep it up!'"

The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Baker, Tankersley) similarly reports that "amid all the turmoil and uncertainty, with his White House seemingly fraying, his legislative agenda stalled and his electoral base in danger," Trump "these days finds one area of comfort: talking about his tax cuts. He finds it so reassuring, in fact, that he is increasingly talking

about doing it all over again."

The [AP](#) (3/14) also describes Trump as "trying to turn attention back to tax cuts and away from the staffing turmoil in his administration," and notes he "promised Wednesday that more relief was on the way." The AP adds, "It's unclear what Trump was talking about," and "the White House did not immediately respond to a request for more details," but "Brady...told Fox Business Network he was indeed working on something with the president and 'we think even more can be done.'" [Politico](#) (3/14, Faler) runs a similar story under the headline "Trump And Brady Say More Tax Cuts Coming."

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Business Journal](#) (3/14, Kirn) reports that "Trump, seated in front of an F-15 fighter jet, heard from an array of Missouri business leaders, who praised the tax cuts, passed in December, often with personal stories." The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (3/14) notes "College of the Ozarks President Jerry C. Davis attended" the roundtable, invited by the White House "after C of O gave a \$204 bonus to employees in January as a result of savings from the recent US tax code revision." The News-Leader adds that "a new poll says that President Trump's approval rating is on the rise after a surge in the US economy and shifting tax reform numbers." The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/14) editorializes that the tax law is "is contributing to a wave of good economic news for the nation," but "doesn't seem to be doing much for workers' wages" despite "full employment."

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/14, Bott) reports that "before the roundtable meeting, Trump was given a tour of Boeing's facility with company officials, former Republican Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder and Mehan." The Post-Dispatch adds that "as he toured part of the Boeing facility and examined an F/A-18 Super Hornet," Trump said, "Great planes, incredible." The "production line," in fact, "has gotten a boost from the administration's request for more Super Hornets in fiscal 2019 on top of the 24 Congress has written into this year's budget." [Bloomberg News](#) (3/14, Johnsson, Capaccio, Epstein) reports also the President also urged Boeing "give the government a 'good price' for its fighter jets, lest he take his business elsewhere." Said Trump, "Otherwise, we're going to buy them from somebody else" in the US.

On its website, [ABC News](#) (3/14, Mallin) reports "some economists have pointed out that Boeing could be one of many US companies particularly vulnerable in the event of a trade war, because it top exporter sells 80 percent of its commercial planes abroad." However, "the company is also one of many that announced hundreds of millions in bonuses for workers following passage of the GOP tax plan."

Kudlow Also Discusses "Phase Two." [Bloomberg News](#) (3/14, Olorunnipa) reports that in an interview with [CNBC](#), Larry Kudlow said that "tax cuts for individuals should be made permanent under 'phase two' of an overhaul." Said Kudlow, "Individuals deserve a permanent break." Kudlow, however, "said he didn't expect a phase two to cut the corporate rate further." Bloomberg adds Trump "has previously referenced a so-called phase two of tax cuts – sometimes in a joking manner," but "earlier this week, he said he was 'serious' about asking House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady to get it done."

Kudlow also said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (3/14), "Many of the people who are critical of me or the President's tax cuts are the very people who are being helped the most. For example, my friends in the union movement – teachers union, government workers – they hate this stuff. You know what? Lower tax rates and faster economic growth and the better profits is the only hope they have of ever seeing their pension. So, don't tell me it doesn't help everybody, because it does."

Trump Raises Funds For McCaskill Opponent As McConnell Criticizes Her Vote Against Tax Reform. The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (3/14, Lowry) notes that when Trump "landed...in St. Louis for his third visit to Missouri in less than a year, the man who welcomed the president to the state twice before was noticeably absent." Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, "who faces a criminal trial in May, did not greet Trump at the airport as he did for Trump's previous visits to Springfield and St. Charles." Trump "instead was welcomed by Attorney General Josh Hawley, the state's top law enforcement official and the Republican front-runner to challenge US Sen. Claire McCaskill in the fall." [KOMU-TV](#)

Columbia, MO (3/14, 6:04 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump "went to a private fundraising campaign...Hawley" yesterday.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/14, Raasch) reports that "hours before" Trump's arrival in Missouri, "Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell took to the Senate floor to criticize...McCaskill for voting against tax cuts that Trump signed into law late last year." McCaskill "pushed back, saying she was for tax cuts but not for the GOP plan that passed that she said was skewed toward wealthier Americans."

Koch Brothers-Backed Group Launches New Ads Which Hit Donnelly, McCaskill On Tax Vote. Meanwhile, [Roll Call](#) (3/14, Pathé) reported that Americans for Prosperity, a Koch brothers-backed group, "is rolling out another \$4 million ad campaign targeting" McCaskill and Sen. Joe Donnelly for opposing the tax-reform bill. The spots mark "the second phase of a \$20 million digital and TV campaign and comes a month after AFP launched the first \$4 million initiative, also against Donnelly and McCaskill. Each ad features a woman explaining how the GOP tax plan benefits them." The [AP](#) (3/14) reports the spots airing in Missouri "criticize McCaskill over her comment that the tax overhaul will only mean 'scraps' for" her state's residents.

Trump Picks Kudlow As Cohn Replacement.

Eamon Javers reported yesterday on [CNBC's Halftime Report](#) (3/14), "According to a source familiar with the deliberations, the President has asked Larry Kudlow to serve as the next National Economic Council director succeeding Gary Cohn." Added Javers, "The President, I am told, offered Larry Kudlow the job" Tuesday and Kudlow "accepted" it. Javers later said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (3/14), "Kudlow says he will disagree with the President when he feels that it is important to do so, but ultimately, the President makes the decisions here. This is the White House after all, and Kudlow says he will execute on decisions even if he does not agree with them as National Economic Counsel Director." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/14, story 4, 0:20, Muir) briefly noted the story last night, indicating Kudlow "served as an informal adviser during the...campaign."

[USA Today](#) (3/14, Jackson, Korte, King) reports White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders "confirmed the move after it was first reported by Kudlow's network." [The Hill](#) (3/14, Easley) quotes Sanders as saying, "Larry Kudlow was offered, and accepted, the position of assistant to the president for economic policy and director of the National Economic Council. ... We will work to have an orderly transition and will keep everyone posted on the timing of him officially assuming the role."

Kudlow spoke to several news outlets later Wednesday. Kudlow told [Reuters](#) (3/14, Mason, Brice), "The president offered me the position last evening and I accepted." Kudlow made similar comments to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14, Timiraos) and [New York Times](#) (3/14, Haberman, Kelly, Tankersley). Kudlow said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (3/14) that he was going to Washington Wednesday night, adding, "We've, got all kinds of things to do. [Trump] sounded great. Look, the economy is starting to boom, the tax cuts are working, the deregulation is working. We're going to get on the infrastructure. Yeah, we're getting on to trade also."

To the [New York Times](#) (3/14, Haberman, Kelly, Tankersley), "the decision to pick Mr. Kudlow, a longtime cheerleader of the president, is the latest move by Mr. Trump to surround himself with loyalists in high administrative posts." The [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Costa, Dawsey) similarly casts Trump as "looking to longtime loyalists who encourage his extemporaneous and combative style, following months of frustration with aides and Cabinet officials who often sought to temper him." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/14, Finnegan) describes Kudlow as "someone who connects with the president personally and politically." Kudlow "shares with Trump a hard-charging personality and a fondness for being a media figure, and both have hosted television programs." Kudlow "has also been an informal Trump advisor over the past year."

Steve Forbes endorses Kudlow's selection in a [USA Today](#) (3/14) op-ed, in which he writes, "When we see the initials GOP, we think of the Republican nickname – Grand Old Party. With Larry Kudlow's appointment as the new director of the National Economic Council, those initials might soon become an acronym for Growth, Opportunity, and

Prosperity. ... The president chose wisely here." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14) also hails Trump's selection of Kudlow, and urges him to focus on spurring economic growth and to oppose protectionist policies. To that end, the Journal tells him to rely on Gary Cohn's staff, as well as on Kevin Hassett and Mick Mulvaney.

Kudlow Defends Trump On Trade. The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Haberman, Kelly, Tankersley) reports that "in an interview on Wednesday afternoon," Kudlow, "who has publicly criticized the president's recently announced tariff plans, said Mr. Trump had a more nuanced view on trade than many people thought." Said Kudlow, "He regards himself as a free trader. ... He does not like to create obstacles, like tariffs. But he also has to protect the US."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/14, Morrongiello) reports that "a fierce defender of free trade, Kudlow came out against the steel and aluminum tariffs Trump unveiled last week and will likely defend multilateral trade agreements against the president's protectionist instincts."

Kudlow: China Needs A Comeuppance On Trade. Kudlow was asked on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (3/14) about reports that President Trump's tariffs on China could reach \$60 billion. Kudlow said, "I'm a little unsure about these numbers. I'm not privy to the numbers. I did talk to Bob Lighthizer at some length today. ... I can't comment on that. I will say this, China is not played by the rules for a long time. I've talked about that, intellectual property rights, corporate technologies, other barriers, trans-shipments to get around things, so China needs a comeuppance on trade."

Kudlow In Recent Podcast: Leaving NAFTA Would Be A "Calamitously Bad Decision." [Politico](#) (3/14, White) says that at the White House, Kudlow will "likely have to push to protect the North American Free Trade Agreement in the White House." In "a recent podcast interview," Kudlow said "withdrawing from the agreement would be a 'calamitously bad decision.'"

White House: US "Stands In Solidarity" With UK On Russia Accusations.

All three networks reported that the White House and Ambassador Haley, in separate statements Wednesday, said the US stands with the UK as British Prime Minister Theresa May announced retaliatory measures against Russia for poisoning a former Russian spy.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/14, story 8, 0:40, Glor) reported, "Britain expelled 23 Russian diplomats today after the poisoning of" former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter, who remain in critical condition after exposure to a nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union. The White House "expressed solidarity with Britain." At an emergency UN Security Council meeting, Ambassador Haley "pointed the finger at Russia."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/14, story 6, 1:55, Holt) reported that the White House "said it agrees with the UK assessment that Russia is to blame," while Haley "condemned the actions" and "issu[ed] a stern warning." Haley said at the emergency Council meeting: "The United States stands in absolute solidarity with Great Britain." She added, "If we don't take immediate concrete measures to address this now, Salisbury will not be the last place we see chemical weapons used. They could be used here in New York."

[USA Today](#) (3/14, Hjelmgard, Stanglin) says Haley "sharply blamed" Moscow for the attack and warned "we will act" if chemical weapon use continues, calling the crisis a "defining moment." The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/14, Gehrke) says she also "compared the Skripal attack to North Korea's use of a nerve agent to assassinate the half-brother of dictator Kim Jong-un."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/14, story 5, 2:30, Muir) reported that senior US intelligence officials say "there is no daylight between US and British assessments" on the fact Russia is responsible, and on Wednesday night, "a strong statement from the White House, saying the United States stands in solidarity with its closest ally, the United Kingdom, and is working together with our allies and partners to ensure that this kind of abhorrent attack does not happen again."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/14) quoted White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders as adding: "This latest action by Russia fits into a pattern of behavior in which Russia disregards the international rules-based order, undermines the sovereignty of

countries worldwide, and attempts to subvert democratic institutions and processes." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/14) also reported on the "very strong" statement from Sanders.

The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Baker) says Britain's "tough response in holding Russia responsible" has "increased the pressure on President Trump" to join its ally in taking action, "even as he has been reluctant to retaliate for Moscow's intervention in the 2016 election in the United States." While Trump expressed solidarity with May during a phone call, he has "avoided saying so personally in public, much as he has generally avoided condemning Russia for its election meddling."

A second [New York Times](#) (3/14, Schwirtz) story says Wednesday's emergency session, called by Britain "to formally accuse Russia of trying to murder a former Russian spy and his daughter," was "unusual. Permanent members of the council do not normally accuse one another of what under certain circumstances could be construed as acts of war."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Booth, Bodner) reports May ordered "the immediate expulsion of 23 Russian diplomats believed to be involved in espionage, in the first reprisals against Moscow for a chemical attack on a former double agent." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/14, story 5, 2:30, Muir) said the move "echo[es] President Obama's kicking out 35 Russian diplomats from the US in retaliation for Russian meddling in the 2016 election." May also announced Britain will "take unspecified clandestine measures," and she added that the royal family will boycott the World Cup soccer tournament in Russia this summer.

May made the announcement in what the [New York Times](#) (3/14, Pérez-Peña, Castle) calls "language reminiscent of the Cold War," and "suddenly" became "the most forceful Western leader in denouncing the government of President Vladimir V. Putin, which she portrayed this week as a malevolent and lawless force."

The [AP](#) (3/14, Lawless, Kirka) reports the Russian Embassy in London said the expulsion of diplomats was "totally unacceptable, unjustified and shortsighted," but Amy Kellogg reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/14) that the Kremlin hasn't taken any action in response. Kellogg added that "we expect to hear more...from the Kremlin in the coming days." The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Higgins) writes, "Do not expect any apologies or even a serious discussion from Moscow."

A [Washington Post](#) (3/14) editorial says "an adequate international response to Mr. Putin would push back against his ventures on all fronts: Syria, where the United Nations has found Russia complicit in war crimes; Ukraine, where Russian-backed forces continue to seek military advantage; cyberspace, where Russian hackers and bots remain ubiquitous. In the absence of such action, Mr. Putin's ambitions, and his audacity, will only escalate further."

Mo Elleithee, executive director of Georgetown University's Institute of Politics and Public Service, said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/14), "I thought it was a strong speech by Ambassador Haley. I thought her trying to hold the Security Council accountable in its efforts to hold Russia accountable was a smart move. Apply her words to her boss, to President Trump, who does not have very much credibility right now in holding Russia accountable. Yes, we need a diplomatic effort. We need to engage the United Nations and the Security Council. But it all rings hollow is the President of the United States continues his flirtation with Vladimir Putin and continues to let him off the hook."

New Zealand To Investigate Decade-Old Poisoning Claim By Former Russian Spy. The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Graham-McLay) reports that police in New Zealand said Thursday that they were investigating "a claim that a man who said he once worked for Russian intelligence was poisoned in Auckland more than a decade ago." Boris Karpichkov, who said he worked for the K.G.B. "before becoming a double agent and later claiming asylum in Britain, spent 15 months in New Zealand in 2006 and 2007." Karpichkov told "Good Morning Britain" this week that he "had powder thrown in his face by someone 'dressed as a common beggar' on a busy street in Auckland." He then "became ill, losing his hair and more than 65 pounds."

Putin Campaigns In Crimea Ahead Of Sunday's Presidential Election. The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/14, story 9, 2:00, Glor) reported that President Vladimir Putin "made no mention of the growing rift with Britain" as campaigned "in Crimea, the province he took illegally from Ukraine," ahead of Russia's presidential election Sunday. His "message today was proudly nationalistic. Crimea, he said, has returned home to Russia." While the US and "most countries called the seizure illegal and slapped on sanctions," Putin on Wednesday "visited the bridge Russia is building to physically link its mainland to Crimea, a mega-project that's wildly popular with Russians who support the land grab. But it's also a message to the West: Putin never backs down."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Troianovski) similarly reports that on "the same day that the Russian president was the focus of international outrage over the chemical attack on a spy in Britain, Putin came to the site of another event that drew Western furor: Crimea."

Media Analyses: Lamb's Showing Signals Possible Democratic Wave In November.

Ex-federal prosecutor Conor Lamb, a Democrat, appears to have defeated GOP state Rep. Rick Saccone in the PA18 special election. With most ballots counted, Lamb leads by 627 votes – though Saccone may seek a recount. Regardless, media outlets frame Lamb's showing in a district President Trump carried by 20 points in 2016 as further evidence that the GOP faces strong headwinds in its efforts to retain the party's House majority in the 2018 midterm elections.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/14, story 4, 2:10), Lester Holt referred "to an election upset that could portend a Democratic wave coming this November. NBC News has declared Conor Lamb the apparent winner in a special congressional election in Pennsylvania in a district that President Trump won big in 2016." NBC's Kasie Hunt added that Lamb scored "a stunning upset" in a contest that dealt Trump "an embarrassing loss." Hunt said, "There are more than 100 Republicans in Congress whose districts are more competitive than Pennsylvania's 18th. A huge warning sign."

The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Burns, Martin) asserts that Lamb "scored a razor-thin but extraordinary upset" win "after a few thousand absentee ballots cemented a Democratic victory in the heart of...Trump's Rust Belt base." The Times adds that "Lamb's 627-vote lead Wednesday afternoon appeared insurmountable, given that the four counties in" the PA18 "have about 500 provisional, military and other absentee ballots left to count, election officials said."

While the NBC News and the New York Times declared Lamb as the winner, the [AP](#) (3/15, Barrow, Levy, Peoples) reports that the Democrat leads by "627 votes out of more than 224,000 cast, according to unofficial results. The four counties in the Pittsburgh-area district reported they had about 375 uncounted provisional, military and overseas ballots. They have seven days to count the provisional ballots, and the deadline to receive military and overseas ballots is next Tuesday. With the margin so close, supporters of either candidate can ask for a recount."

[Politico](#) (3/14, Schneider) reported that the contest "appears headed to a recount, with Republicans preparing behind the scenes to cry foul." Republicans are "considering challenging the accuracy of voting machines in the district, in addition to confusion over the state's changing congressional map later this year, according to two sources familiar with the process." Pennsylvania "law does not require an automatic recount in congressional races." However, "Saccone and his allies can request a recount after all the counties have completed their tallying of provisional and overseas military ballots."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/14, Miller) reports that the White House on Wednesday sought "to put a happy face on a likely Democratic win in a Pennsylvania special election where...Trump went all-in for the GOP candidate." White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah is quoted as saying, "The president's engagement in the race turned what was a deficit for the Republican candidate to what is essentially a tie. Also the Democrat in the race really embraced the president's policies and his vision whereas he didn't really embrace [House Minority Leader] Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader." In a similar report on Shah's remarks, [The Hill](#) (3/14, Easley) said the White House argued Lamb

"won by embracing President Trump's policies."

However, on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/14, story 3, 2:00, Muir), Tom Llamas reported that "regardless of the final outcome, Democrats say their success" in the PA18 "is proof momentum is in their favor heading into the midterms." The [AP](#) (3/14, Mascaro) reports, "The message to Republicans from the Pennsylvania special election was simple: Almost no one is safe." The AP adds that Trump "won more than 100 districts nationwide by narrower margins than" his 20-point win in the PA18 in 2016, "arguably making them comparably competitive now."

DNC Chairman Tom Perez said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/14), "You look around right now, there are 118 districts that are actually more competitive than the district that was won yesterday. ... So, if I am a Republican, I am very worried right now, because Democrats are fired up. We are fielding good candidates. That's a big lesson from this. We are organizing everywhere and we are talking about the issues that people care the most about."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (3/14, Tamari) reports, "Running in deep red rural and suburban territory outside Pittsburgh, Saccone pledged his loyalty to...Trump, had help from two of Trump's famous rallies, and saw the GOP spend millions of dollars on his behalf, much of it centering on the president's signature tax bill. But none of that seemed to work." In an analysis, the [AP](#) (3/14, Peoples) says "there are 106...House districts Trump won by less than 20 points, suggesting that scores more Republican-held seats could be in play this fall. Democrats need to flip 24 seats to claim the House majority — just 23 if Lamb wins. Both numbers increasingly look reachable. For GOP strategists, or those members considering retirement, it may be time to hit the panic button."

Writing in "The Fix" on the website of the [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Phillips), Amber Phillips said "the fact that Democrats were competitive in such a Republican-leaning district makes the 24 seats they need to net in November look much more feasible." Writing for [The Atlantic](#) (3/11), Ronald Brownstein said that the results marked the first time since Trump's election that Democrats regained "ground with the white working-class voters at the core of the president's coalition." Brownstein added that "Lamb's apparent win testified to how much energy opposition to Trump has ignited among Democrats everywhere."

[The Hill](#) (3/14, Wilson) reported that "the results illustrate the challenge Republicans face even in a district...Trump won by more than 20 percentage points just 16 months ago: Voters who were motivated to show up for Trump are far less motivated to show up for other members of his party, even when Trump himself implores them to vote." Writing for the [Washington Post](#) (3/14), Dan Balz says that PA18 contest "isn't the first data point to show Republicans that they're in trouble, but if there was any complacency among elected officials, that's certainly gone now." Of the election results, Balz adds, "The message was clear. In this election cycle, Trump is a great motivator for Democrats, who still feel the sting of the 2016 election and are eager to vote in opposition to the president."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/14, Boyer) reports, "The midterm election year is off to an ugly start for...Trump." The Times adds, "Mid-term elections typically go against the party holding the White House, as Mr. Trump has been warning his base. But the special election in southwestern Pennsylvania took place in 'Trump country,' a district the GOP should have held." Of the PA18 results, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (3/14), "I think it is a big lesson. It's a lesson that you can only drill down on the base so far. We've got to broaden our appeal and that's why I've been worried about where the Republican party is going. We can't win statewide elections like this. We can't win in purple districts like. This should be a big wake-up call for Republicans."

[Reuters](#) (3/14, Morgan) reports that in the wake of Tuesday's results, "Republicans sounded the alarm." Reuters says House Speaker Paul Ryan "called the election a 'wake-up call' in a meeting with Republican House members and pushed them to raise more campaign funds. He also urged them to do more to highlight tax cuts approved by the Republican-dominated Congress and signed by Trump."

[The Hill](#) (3/14, Zanona, Wong) reported that House Republicans "are fretting over

the results of" the contest, "worried that the tight race in the heart of Trump country might be a harbinger of a Democratic wave in the midterm elections later this year. There's a '50-50' chance that Democrats can flip the House, senior Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) told CNN," for example.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/14, Caralle) reported that retiring Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA), during a Wednesday appearance on CNN, said, "I think most Republicans realize we're running into a very serious headwind – hurricane-force wind." And referring to the PA18 contest, Dent added that "if you're a Republican member in a pretty safe seat like this one was, that's where I'd be nervous because those members are not used to running in these types of competitive situations."

[Politico](#) (3/14, Bade, Isenstadt) reported that on Wednesday, "GOP leaders warned lawmakers that the outcome in the pro-Trump district could spell disaster in the midterms if they don't respond forcefully, but many lawmakers dismissed the race as an anomaly and seemed to be in denial." In an online article, [CNN](#) (3/14, Killough, Serfaty, Bradner) reported that Ryan, speaking with reporters, described the contest "as a race between 'two conservatives,'" defining Lamb "as a 'pro-life, pro-gun, anti-Nancy Pelosi conservative' and not[ing] that there wasn't a Democratic primary that would have pulled Lamb to the left." Ryan "said he doubts this will become a trend in Republican-leaning districts because there wasn't a primary."

In an online article, [ABC News](#) (3/14, Parkinson) reported that some House Republicans discounted "Lamb's strong performance as an aberration and not a bellwether heading into this fall's congressional midterms." For example, Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) told ABC News, "I think Mr. Lamb was brilliant. He ran as a Republican. So, it worked for him. He certainly didn't run as a Democrat." [Roll Call](#) (3/14, Bowman) reported, "Republicans downplayed Tuesday's special election," though "it's another reminder of the tough midterm election cycle ahead, they said."

[USA Today](#) (3/14, Jackson) reports that Democrats viewed "the vote as a sign that an anti-Trump backlash could carry them to a congressional majority in the elections in November." And though "Republicans downplayed the" results, "political analysts said things look good for Democrats as they try to wrest House and Senate majorities from the Republicans and Trump."

The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Baker, Shear) reports that as Trump "hobnobbed on Tuesday night with wealthy donors in the exclusive enclave of Beverly Park, the voters in the suburbs south of Pittsburgh were in revolt, giving" Lamb "a narrow victory. ... Just as they did outside Birmingham and Montgomery, Ala., in December, and Richmond, Va., and Washington in November, energized and angry suburban voters" swamped "the Trump stalwarts in the more rural parts of" the PA18, "sending a clear message to Republicans around the country."

In an online article, [CNN](#) (3/14, Levy) reports that in the wake of the PA18 contest "and Alabama's special Senate election in December, national Democrats feel confident they have found a way to succeed by working behind the scenes with campaigns and focusing their efforts early on defining Republican candidates on issues that matter locally." CNN added, "The new Democratic approach is informed in part by lessons learned during last year's special congressional elections." Referring to the 2016 GA6 special election, "a Democratic operative" told CNN. "Everyone learned their lesson from Jon Ossoff. We realized that nationalizing a race like that obviously didn't work and ultimately we lost."

In his [New York Times](#) (3/14, Bruni) column, Frank Bruni says "Lamb's showing – win, lose or draw – is remarkable. ... Clearly, the opposition to Trump is energized and organized. Just as clearly, Trump's style of governing – bereft of truth, lavish with chaos, crude and divisive – has diminished his standing and given his rivals an enormous window of opportunity."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Board) says the PA18 results "are just the latest sign that Republicans' toxic embrace of...Trump is hurting not only the country but also their party." The Post adds that "Saccone chose to associate closely with the president, claiming that he was 'Trump before Trump was Trump.' Suburban voters punished him."

In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14) column, Karl Rove says that the PA18 results show that GOP candidates should craft their own messages and not simply run as versions of Trump. Rove adds that if GOP candidates are to be successful this fall, they need to raise adequate amounts of money, microtarget Republican voters who often sit out midterm elections, recruit, train, and motivate scores of volunteers to help turn out the vote.

Media Analyses: Lamb Was A Perfect Fit For PA18. In a profile of Lamb, the [New York Times](#) (3/14, Tackett, Martin) says, "A former Marine who favored gun rights, he was culturally conservative enough to appeal to rural voters. He was pro labor and pro tariff in an area that still has thousands of steelworkers union members. As a federal prosecutor, he cracked down on drug dealers but also offered empathy about the tragedy of opioid addiction. And his Ivy League polish and earnest manner played well with college-educated suburban voters. And now, with his" win, Lamb "has offered a template that will be studied in congressional races where Democratic candidates need to win over voters who supported...Trump."

In an analysis, [USA Today](#) (3/14, Shesgreen) reports that "Tuesday's results show that the right kind of Democrat can win over both the suburban and working-class voters who favored Republicans in previous elections." USA Today adds that "Democrats had an ideal candidate in Lamb, an ex-Marine and former prosecutor who fit with the conservative blue-collar mold of the Pennsylvania district."

Writing for [Politico Magazine](#) (3/14), Bill Scher said "the way Lamb won does little to help Democrats adjudicate the raging debate on the left over how should they run in November: as proud left-wing populists or relative moderates willing to reach across the aisle." In that debate, Lamb "didn't pick a side," taking "some positions from out of each camp's bucket, all while brandishing his assault rifle."

Writing for [TIME](#) (3/14), Philip Elliott said that "the bigger fight in 2018 is unlikely to be a carbon copy of what narrowly happened in" the PA18 "for a number of reasons," including that "Democrats avoided a messy primary fight in picking Lamb, a Marine veteran who secured the nomination by winning over 319 Democrats' backing in a high school gym filled with 554 activists back in November. In other scenarios, an energized activist base on the Left – populated by newcomers to the process who demand ideological purity – may have prevented Lamb from winning the nomination had there been a real contest."

Writing for the [Washington Examiner](#) (3/14, Jashinsky), Emily Jashinsky said that "Lamb is the type of conservative Democrat progressives want purged from the party. To replicate his success, Democrats will need to nominate candidates whose ideological orientations fit the districts in which they're running." Jashinsky added, "With much of their base fixated on demanding ideological purity, nominating more Conor Lambs won't come easily for Democrats. To actually retake the House, they may need to retake their own party."

[McClatchy](#) (3/13, Glueck, Roarty) reported that "Democratic officials reject the notion that the type of candidate with Lamb's background and campaign will be an outlier this year, pointing to a handful of candidates similar in profile to Lamb who are also running in deep-red seats. 'From a practical perspective, if we lose this district by one percent or win this district by one percent, it doesn't make one bit of a difference,' said Ethan Todras-Whitehill, executive director of Swing Left, a progressive group trying to help Democrats win the House in 2018. 'Both of those things are huge sign of a wave.'"

In his [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Dionne) column, E.J. Dionne Jr. says, "The main path for a Democratic takeover of the House runs through Republican-held districts where Hillary Clinton defeated or lost only narrowly to Trump in 2016. But Lamb demonstrated that more moderate Democrats could harvest anti-Trump votes without waging an anti-Trump campaign." Dionne adds that "Lamb's breakthrough should petrify Republicans. The staunchest anti-Trump voters are clearly prepared to vote for Democratic candidates no matter their ideology."

[Politico](#) (3/14, Nelson) reported that Lamb "said Wednesday that his claimed victory in" the contest "came, at least in part, thanks to supporters of...Trump who voted for him." Appearing on CNN, Lamb said, "I was at a lot of polling places yesterday with cars parked outside of them that had president Trump's bumper sticker on them. So he's a

popular person here. But I think that what happens when you campaign in real life as much as possible is that those divisions go away. Everyone gave me a fair shake and I know that there are people that voted for the president who also voted for me. And, you know, I thank them for hearing me out." The [Washington Times](#) (3/14, Persons) also highlights Lamb's remarks about Trump supporters.

Lamb was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (3/14) if the PA18 race holds any lessons for the midterms. Lamb said, "I wouldn't presume to give lessons to people outside the district. I think every district is pretty different. Hard work really pays off. ... I think in this environment...campaigning in real life, in small rooms, door-to-door, person-to-person, it works and I learned a lot doing it. I think it helped our campaign an awful lot and I would advise anybody no matter where they are to do that."

More Democrats May Follow Lamb's Lead In Disavowing Pelosi. [Politico](#) (3/14, Schneider, Caygle) reported that Lamb "weathered \$10 million in attack ads cartoonishly calling" him "a member of Nancy Pelosi's liberal 'flock.' Now other Democratic hopefuls are looking to adopt Lamb's strategy – he repeatedly and bluntly disavowed" Pelosi – "in their own competitive races. It raises the prospect of a slate of Democratic hopefuls running against" Pelosi "as they try to neutralize one of the GOP's go-to attacks – a pillar of Republicans' plan to keep the House majority in November." Rep. Filemon Vela (D-TX), "a vocal critic of current leadership," told Politico, "If we're going to take the majority, it's going to be because we win districts like that. Running against Nancy Pelosi is going to help you a lot more than running with her."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/14, McLaughlin) reports, "Democrats claimed victory Wednesday in the close" PA18 contest, "but one loser could be emerging" in the aftermath: "Pelosi, who is becoming a liability to Democrats on both sides of the party's ideological spectrum." Appearing Wednesday on MSNBC, Lamb "pledged not to support Mrs. Pelosi as the House Democratic leader. 'We need to sweep some new people in there,' he said."

In her [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Rampell) column, Catherine Rampell says that Lamb's disavowing of Pelosi "echoed the positions of other Democrats already in Congress – disproportionately younger politicians, and from areas much bluer than" the PA18 – "who have also called for a new face for their party." Rampell adds that "Democrats running in other districts may make not choose to jump on the anti-Pelosi train in the coming midterms. But you could also imagine Lamb's strategy emboldening some of them...to pledge not to support her. Which means even if that 'blue wave' strikes in November, it still might wash away the current House minority leader."

WSJournal: GOP's Tariffs, Pelosi-Related Attacks Failed To Boost Saccone. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14) says that the election results show Republicans need a better strategy this fall than supporting tariffs and using House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as a cudgel to hammer Democratic candidates. The Journal says that Lamb supported the new Trump-imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum tariffs and other Democratic candidates are likely to do so this fall. The Journal adds that the GOP sought to link Lamb to Pelosi, but the candidate neutralized that line of attack by saying he wouldn't support Pelosi as Democratic leader.

High School Students Stage Walkout Across Nation In Support Of Gun Control.

All three major networks led their newscasts last nights with reports on the high school students walkout in support of gun control measures. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/14, lead story, 3:30, Muir) referred to "powerful images playing out across this country," with "tens of thousands of students staging a massive coordinated protest against gun violence, one month after the shooting rampage killed 17 people at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/14, lead story, 3:00, Gutierrez) said "across the country, the loudest lesson was outside the classroom," because "a generation" is "sitting silent no more," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/14, lead story, 2:45, Diaz) spoke of "a sea of students" that "streamed out of the school behind a national movement," and added that "while the walkout was under way, the NRA tweeted, 'Let's work together and secure our

schools and stop school violence. We protect our banks, our sports stadiums and our government buildings better than we protect our schools.' The NRA wants Congress to push through legislation increases school safety."

[Reuters](#) (3/14) reports that "with some students dressed in orange, the color adopted by the gun control movement, the walkouts began at 10 a.m. local time in each time zone and were scheduled to last 17 minutes. Many rallies went longer." Reuters adds that "the duration was a tribute to 17 students and staff killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Heim, Lang, Svrluga) says "supporters say the walkouts and demonstrations represent a realization of power and influence by young people raised on social media who have come of age in an era of never-ending wars, highly publicized mass shootings and virulent national politics." The [AP](#) (3/14, Binkley) says the "wave of protests" could be "the largest of its kind in American history," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14, Campo-Flores) runs a similar assessment.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/14) editorializes about the "extraordinary nationwide demonstration for safer schools and stronger gun control," and hails the "'Enough is Enough'...posters of a movement that has made clear it won't go away until something real is done to combat gun violence."

South Carolina Governor Calls Student Walkouts Protesting Gun Violence "Shameful." [The Hill](#) (3/14, Gstalter) reported that Gov. Henry McMaster on Wednesday "blasted the national student walkout as a 'shameful' attempt by left-wing groups to push their own political agenda. 'It appears that these school children, innocent school children, are being used as a tool by [this] left-wing group to further their own agenda,' McMaster told South Carolina public television network ETV." McMaster added that the walkout is "a political statement by a left-wing group and it's shameful." The Hill added, "High school students in cities across the country including Washington, D.C., marched out of their classrooms for 17 minutes on Wednesday to protest gun violence a month after 17 students and faculty were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla." McMaster is seeking a full four-year term this fall.

Cabinet Members Make Case For "Transformative" Infrastructure Projects.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Laris) reports that in a joint appearance before the Senate Commerce Committee, Labor Secretary Acosta, Transportation Secretary Chao, Agriculture Secretary Perdue, Energy Secretary Perry, and Commerce Secretary Ross made the case for spending "\$20 billion on a range of risky but potentially 'transformative' infrastructure projects, such as satellite networks to provide rural broadband, new launchpads for private rockets, and 'augmented reality' technologies to visualize and manage urban traffic congestion." But after the hearing, Sen. John Thune said, "Unless someone's willing to bite the bullet and come up with a new funding source, there are limitations to what we will be able to do."

In 61-31 Vote, Senate Passes "Sweeping Rollback" Of Dodd-Frank.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Werner, Merle) reports that the Senate, in a 67-31 vote Wednesday, approved "the most significant loosening of financial regulations since the economic crisis a decade ago." The measure "would free more than two dozen banks from the toughest regulatory scrutiny put in place after the 2008 global financial crisis." While President Trump promised to do a "big number" on the Dodd-Frank law, "the new measure leaves key aspects of the earlier law in place." However, the measure "amounts to a sweeping rollback of banking rules aimed at protecting taxpayers from another financial crisis and future bailouts."

The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Rappeport) says that despite the "rare showing of bipartisanship" in the Senate, the bill "faces an uncertain fate going forward, as House Republicans are expected to push for a much more expansive rollback of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act." Senate Democrats who supported the bill that passed Wednesday "have insisted that major changes along the lines of what the House passed last year will sink the effort." However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14, Ackerman) is more optimistic, saying

the measure has a good chance of passage.

[Politico](#) (3/14, Guida) says that while the President and other supporters of the legislation “say they want to rescue the nation’s lenders from a crush of regulations,” but “the industry looks more like it’s booming.” Over the last three years, banks “have hauled in record profits” and they “will be among the biggest winners under the new tax-reform law.” More over “their loans are growing by 4 to 5 percent a year,” and “even community banks, which the bill’s backers say they’re most concerned about, are making money.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Trump Was Right To Block Merger.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/14) praises President Trump’s decision to block Broadcom’s takeover of Qualcomm “given the series of mergers that has left the semiconductor industry already dominated by a few large companies.” Although some experts fear that the move “could further rattle the global economy and international norms” following Trump’s proposed steel and aluminum tariffs, blocking the deal will help slow a “concentration of power...in the semiconductor business,” making it important for both protecting competition as well as national security.

Washington Post.

“Britain Is Punishing Putin. America Should Join In.” A [Washington Post](#) (3/14) editorial says “an adequate international response to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin would push back against his ventures on all fronts: Syria, where the United Nations has found Russia complicit in war crimes; Ukraine, where Russian-backed forces continue to seek military advantage; cyberspace, where Russian hackers and bots remain ubiquitous. In the absence of such action, Mr. Putin’s ambitions, and his audacity, will only escalate further.”

“What The Pennsylvania Election Should Teach Both Parties.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Board) says the PA18 results “are just the latest sign that Republicans’ toxic embrace of...Trump is hurting not only the country but also their party.” The Post adds that “Saccone chose to associate closely with the president, claiming that he was ‘Trump before Trump was Trump.’ Suburban voters punished him.”

“Students Walking Out Of School Taught The Nation A Lesson.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/14) editorializes about the “extraordinary nationwide demonstration for safer schools and stronger gun control,” and hails the “‘Enough is Enough’...posters of a movement that has made clear it won’t go away until something real is done to combat gun violence.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Kudlow Into The Breach.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14) also hails President Trump’s selection of Larry Kudlow to head the White House National Economic Council, and urges him to focus on spurring economic growth and to oppose protectionist policies. To that end, the Journal tells him to rely on Gary Cohn’s staff, as well as on Kevin Hassett and Mick Mulvaney.

“Trump’s Pennsylvania Downdraft.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14) says that the election results show Republicans need a better strategy this fall than supporting tariffs and using House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as a cudgel to hammer Democratic candidates. The Journal says that Lamb supported the new Trump-imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum tariffs and other Democratic candidates are likely to do so this fall. The Journal adds that the GOP sought to link Lamb to Pelosi, but the candidate neutralized that line of attack by saying he wouldn’t support Pelosi as Democratic leader.

“A Cancer Scare Defeat In California.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14) praises the preliminary injunction issued two weeks ago by a federal judge in California against mandatory cancer warnings on certain food products. The judge ruled in favor of

farm groups and businesses who sued after the state required warnings about the chemical glyphosate, and the Journal agrees with the agencies that have found this chemical is unlikely to pose a cancer risk. The Journal also agrees with the judge that the state can't compel businesses to issue "misleading" warnings, arguing that this will harm businesses and California citizens.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Theranos Founder Elizabeth Holmes Charged With Fraud](#)
[Trump Organization Tied To Deal To Keep Ex-Porn Star Quiet](#)
[Disney Sets Stage For Succession Race With Operational Overhaul](#)
[What's The Biggest Trade On The New York Stock Exchange? The Last One](#)
[UK Expels 23 Russian Diplomats Over Spy Poisoning](#)

New York Times:

[Thousands Walk Out Of Class, Urging Action On Gun Control](#)
[Theresa May Expels Russian Diplomats. Now, The Hard Part.](#)
[Democrat's Win In Pennsylvania Upends Parties' Midterm Plans](#)
[Stephen Hawking Taught Us A Lot About How To Live](#)
[Once A Silicon Valley Star, Theranos Chief Is Accused Of Fraud](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump Loyalist Kudlow To Lead Economic Council](#)
[Britain Expels Russian Diplomats](#)
[GOP Finds Pa. Setback "Difficult To Spin"](#)
[SEC Alleges Widespread Fraud By Theranos](#)
[He Saw A Universe Without Limits](#)
["We're The Next Generation"](#)

Financial Times:

[Theranos Founder Charged With "Massive" Securities Fraud](#)
[Stephen Hawking, Scientist, 1942-2018](#)
[Google Bans Cryptocurrency Advertising](#)
[US Believes Russia Responsible For Nerve Agent Attack In Britain](#)

Washington Times:

[As Kudlow Comes On Board, Other Top Trump Officials Likely Leaving](#)
[Congress Plunges Into Gun Debate With School Safety Bill, Hearing On FBI's Cruz Failure](#)
[Pennsylvania Win For Lamb Is Loss For Pelosi As Democrat Calls For New Leaders](#)
[Contradiction — Students Favor "Free Speech" And Policies That Restrict It Such As Safe Spaces](#)
[A Battered Department Crosses Its Fingers Over Pompeo Pick](#)
[Land Grab Proposal Stokes Fears For White South African Farmers](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: High School Students Walkout; McCabe-DOJ Investigation; Pennsylvania Special Election; White House Economic Adviser Pick; UK-Russia Relations; United Airline-Pet Death; Severe Weather; Priest Aides Criminal Capture; Navy Jet Crash; Nursing Student Murder; Baseball Player-Domestic Abuse; Stephen Hawking Dies.

CBS: High School Students Walkout; Florida School Shooter Trial; California-Shot Fired In Classroom; Navy Jet Crash; Avalanche-Soldiers Hurt; Trump Admin-Staff Changes; McCabe-DOJ Investigation; UK-Russia Relations; Russia-Ukraine Occupation; Healthy Women-Decreased Dementia Rate; United Airline-Pet Death; Silicon Valley Civil Fraud;

Ford Vehicles Recall; Toys R Us Bankruptcy; Stephen Hawking Dies.

NBC: High School Students Walkout; High School Students Walkout-Students; United Airline-Pet Death; Pennsylvania Special Election; Toys R Us Bankruptcy; UK-Russia Relations; California-Shot Fired In Classroom; Stephen Hawking Dies; Grocery Delivery Services; Ford Vehicles Recall; Baby Expert Dies; Natural Wonders-Bird Eye's View.

Network TV At A Glance:

High School Students Walkout – 10 minutes, 25 seconds

United Airline-Pet Death – 6 minutes, 40 seconds

UK-Russia Relations – 5 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Pennsylvania Special Election; Congress-School Safety Law; Navy Jet Crash; Birmingham-Shooting; UK-Russia Relations; Wall Street News.

CBS: High School Students Walkout; Florida School Shooter Trial; Navy Jet Crash; McCabe-DOJ Investigation; Trump Admin-Staff Changes; Wall Street Reform Roleback.

FOX: Congress-School Safety Law; High School Students Walkout; UK-Russia Relations; Trump Admin-Staff Changes; Navy Jet Crash.

NPR: Wall Street Reform Roleback; High School Students Walkout; Trump-Business Roundtable; Toys R Us Bankruptcy.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Varadkar of Ireland; attends the Friends of Ireland luncheon; meets with members of the American Petroleum Institute; meets with Bill Gates; delivers remarks and participates in the Shamrock Bowl Presentation by Prime Minister Varadkar.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President in the Friends of Ireland luncheon.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Hearing on 'United States Pacific Command', with testimony from U.S. Pacific Command Commander Adm. Harry Harris Jr. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Joel Carson III to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; Colm Connolly and Maryellen Noreika to be U.S. District Judges for the District of Delaware; William Jung to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Ryan Holte to be U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge; Jonathan Mitchell to be Administrative Conference of the United States Chairman; William McSwain to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Matthew Harris to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Utah; Johnny Lee Kuhlman to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Oklahoma; Joseph McClain to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Indiana; and David Weaver to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Colorado Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Business Meeting, to consider the nomination of Dr James Reilly II to be U.S. Geological Survey Director Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM CANCELED: Secretary of State Tillerson testifies to Senate Foreign Relations Committee on FY'18 budget and redesign plans – CANCELED: Hearing on 'Review of the FY 2019 State Department Budget Request and Redesign Plans', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson * President Donald Trump announced Secretary Tillerson's departure from the role and his nomination of CIA Director Mike Pompeo as his replacement Tuesday Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM NO LONGER ON CALENDAR: Senate Natural Resources Committee

hearing on USFS FY'19 budget – NO LONGER ON CALENDAR: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing 'To Examine the President's Budget Request for the U.S. Forest Service for Fiscal Year 2019' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Lt. Gen. Paul Nakasone to be National Security Agency Director Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the 340B Drug Discount Program – Hearing on 'Perspectives on the 340B Drug Discount Program', with testimony from America's Essential Hospitals President and CEO Bruce Siegel; Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Executive Vice President for Policy, Research & Membership Lori Reilly; Carolina Health Centers President and CEO Sue Veer; and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Government Relations Division Director Joseph Hill III Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee considers DOE nominees – Nominations hearing considers Theodore Garrish to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs; and James Edward Campos to be Department of Energy Office of Minority Economic Impact Director Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

2:00 PM Georgian President Margvelashvili and Dem Sen. Amy Klobuchar speak on U.S.-Georgia relations at Atlantic Council – 'The U.S.-Georgia Partnership' Atlantic Council panel discussion, on the 'importance of Georgia's path forward and the U.S.-Georgia partnership for transatlantic security'. Speakers include Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili, Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar, former UK Ambassador to Georgia Alexandra Hall, Kennan Institute Global Fellow and Department of Government Conflict Resolution Program Director Kenneth Yalowitz, and Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs The Future of Diplomacy Project Senior Fellow Paula Dobriansky Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>

US House: 9:30 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H. Res. 644, Strongly condemning the slave auctions of migrants and refugees in Libya, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 4681, No Assistance for Assad Act', 'H.R. 4744, Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act', and 'H. Con. Res. 111, Recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

9:30 AM POSTPONED – Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – The Department of Transportation', with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao.

POSTPONED: <https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=395120> Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2358-A, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Oversight and Government Reform markup hearing – Markup: H.R. 50 Foxx Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2017; H.R. 1339 Duncan-TN Freedom from Government Competition Act of 2017; H.R. 2846 Farenthold Federal Agency Customer Experience Act of 2017; H.R. 4809 Walker GOOD Act; H.R. ___ Farenthold Office of Government Information Services Empowerment Act of 2018; H.R. 1376 Cummings Electronic Message Preservation Act of 2017; H.R. 3303 Connolly First Responder Fair RETIRE Act; H.R. 4446 Plaskett To amend. Location: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Veterans Affairs', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2362-A, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the CFIUS – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States ` titled `Evaluating CFIUS: Administration Perspectives`, with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Markets and Investment Policy Heath Tarbert; Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration Richard Ashooh; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy Eric Chewning Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on water resources infrastructure – Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing on `Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Water Resources Projects and Policy`, with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General and Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Armed Services Committee hearing on security challenges in Europe – Hearing on `Security Challenges in Europe and Posture for Inter-state Competition with Russia`, with testimony from U.S. European Command Commander Gen. Mike Scaparrotti Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

10:00 AM FEMA administrator and San Juan mayor testify to House Homeland Security Committee on lessons from 2017 disasters – Hearing on `Preparedness, Response, and Rebuilding: Lessons from the 2017 Disasters`, with testimony from FEMA Administrator Brock Long; San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz Soto; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Ed Jackson Jr.; Department of Homeland Security Acting Inspector General John Kelly; Office of the Texas Governor COO Reed Clay; Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Wesley Maul; and Puerto Rico Committee on Federal and International Relations, and Status Vice-Chairman Jose Melendez-Ortiz Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Business Meeting Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM Interior Secretary Zinke testifies to House Natural Resources Committee on FY'19 budget – Oversight hearing on `Policy Priorities at the Department of the Interior and the Administration's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Proposal`, with testimony from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition Olivia Barton Ferriter; and Department of the Interior Office of Budget Director Denise Flanagan Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Science and Technology Committee hearing on NSF budget – Hearing on `An Overview of the National Science Foundation Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2019`, with testimony from NSF Director Dr France Cordova; and National Science Board Chairman Dr Maria Zuber Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on work in welfare programs – Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee hearing on `Strengthening Access and Accountability to Work in Welfare Programs`, with testimony from Office of the Kentucky Governor Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Adam Meier; American Enterprise Institute Fellow in Poverty Studies Robert Doar; Urban Institute Senior Fellow Dr Heather Hahn; and Utah Department of Workforce Services Workforce Development Program and Policy Division Director and TANF Administrator Liz Carver Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Veterans Affairs subcommittee hearing on FY'19 VHA budget request – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'FY 2019 Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for the Veterans Health Administration', with testimony from representatives of Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, and Department of Veterans Affairs Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Energy Secretary Perry testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – The Department of Energy', with testimony from Secretary of Energy Rick Perry Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2362-B, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM HHS Secretary Azar testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Department of Health and Human Services', with testimony from Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2358-C, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Army budget – Defense Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Army', with testimony from Secretary of the Army Dr Mark Esper; and U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley Location: U.S. Capitol, H-140, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 4545 – Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act' and 'H.R. 4263 – Regulation A+ Improvement Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:30 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USDA IG budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Office of the Inspector General, Department of Agriculture', with testimony from U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General Phyllis Fong, Assistant Inspector General for Audit Gil Harden, and Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Ann Coffey Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 4545 – Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act' and 'H.R. 4263 – Regulation A+ Improvement Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on monetization and illicit use of stolen data – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on 'After the Breach: the Monetization and Illicit Use of Stolen Data', with testimony from RAND Corporation Information Scientist Lillian Ablon; McAfee Chief Strategist Joe Bernik; Carnegie Mellon University Associate Research Professor Dr Nicolas Christin; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Senior Vice President Dr James Lewis Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittees joint oversight hearing on FY'19 VBA and Board of Veterans' Appeals budgets – Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and Economic Opportunity Subcommittee joint oversight hearing on 'U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2019 Budget: Veterans Benefits Administration and the Board of Veterans' Appeals', with testimony from Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals Chairman Cheryl Mason; Veterans Benefits Administration Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary James Manker Jr.; VA Office of Information and Technology Deputy CIO Lloyd Thrower; The American Legion Legislative Division Director Matthew Shuman; Disabled American Veterans Assistant National

Legislative Director Shane Liermann; and Student Veterans of America Director of Policy Lauren Augustine Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Oversight Committee hearing on federal permitting processes – Hearing on ‘An Examination of Federal Permitting Processes’, with testimony from Marquette County Road Commission Engineer-Manager James Iwanicki; Heritage Foundation Senior Research Fellow in Regulatory Policy Diane Katz; The ESG Companies Vice President and CFO Valerie Wilkinson; and Center for American Progress Director of Infrastructure Policy Kevin DeGood Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on ‘Bang for the Border Security Buck’ – Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Bang for the Border Security Buck: What do we get for \$33 billion?’, with testimony from Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management Claire Grady; Customs and Border Protection Acting Deputy Commissioner Ronald Vitiello; Government Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Rebecca Gambler; National Border Patrol Council National President Brandon Judd; and National Treasury Employees Union National President Anthony Reardon Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on abandoned hardrock mines – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Abandoned Hardrock Mines and the Role of Non-Governmental Entities’ Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

3:00 PM ‘Black Wealth Creation & Economic Empowerment through Franchising’ roundtable discussion – ‘Black Wealth Creation & Economic Empowerment through Franchising’ roundtable discussion, hosted by the U.S. Black Chambers, Rainbow Push Coalition, International Franchise Association, and Office of Democratic Rep. Gregory Meeks, with lawmakers discussing ‘policies that can help generate wealth creation in the Black community and how the franchising model can remove barriers to entry for Black entrepreneurs’ Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 441, Washington, DC www.usblackchambers.org <https://twitter.com/usblackchambers>

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on FY’19 budget for national security space programs – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on ‘Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for National Security Space Programs’, with testimony from Air Force Space Command Commander Gen. John Raymond; National Reconnaissance Office Director Betty Sapp; and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security Kenneth Rapuano Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

Friends of Ireland Luncheon on Capitol Hill – House Speaker Paul Ryan hosts the annual Friends of Ireland Luncheon, with President Donald Trump and Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar participating, as ‘an ode to St. Patrick’s Day and strong U.S.-Ireland ties’ * Irish tenor Anthony Kearns performs * Rep. Ryan has described the event as ‘equal parts beer and bipartisanship’, though President Trump is teetotal * The luncheon tradition was started in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan and House Speaker Tip O’Neill to signify their bipartisan commitment to peace and security in Ireland Location: U.S. Capitol, Rayburn Rm, Washington, DC www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

Other: 8:00 AM GOP Rep. John Shimkus speaks at Atlantic Council report launch – ‘Strategic Oil Product Stockholding: International Experience & US Prospects’ Atlantic Council Global Energy Center Senior Fellow Phillip Cornell’s report launch, with Atlantic Council Global Energy Center Founding Director and Chairman Amb. (Ret.) Richard Morningstar, Republican Rep. John Shimkus, American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers Chief Industry Analyst Susan Grissom, and Atlantic Council Global Energy Center Senior Fellow Melanie Kenderdine Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/ACGlobalEnergy> #ACEnergy

8:00 AM Octogenarians launch Alliance for Responsible Leaders to protect health services – Octogenarians Fran and Bernie Alpert, who have been married 60 years, launch their new group, the Alliance for Responsible Leaders, with day in Washington, DC to send a message to President Donald Trump 'to quit tweeting and get to work keeping the promises he made to seniors to protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security' Agenda includes arrival at the White House, media availability and shooting of live video message for President Trump, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC (8:00 AM EDT); travel to Capitol Hill (8:45 AM EDT); meeting with Democratic Sen. Bob Casey, Rm 393 Russell Senate Office Bldg (10:30 AM EDT); media availability in the Capitol area (11:00 AM EDT and 2:30 PM EDT); lunch meeting with Democratic Rep. Brad Schneider, Sonoma Restaurant, 223 Pennsylvania Ave SE (12:00 PM EDT); and meetings with the offices of Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy, Rm 126 Hart Senate Office Bldg (3:30 PM EDT) and of Democratic Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Rm 2367 Rayburn House Office Bldg (4:15 PM EDT) Location: Washington, DC www.allianceforresponsibleleaders.org <https://twitter.com/BernieAndFran>

12:15 PM GOP Sen. Marco Rubio speaks on U.S. interests in Latin America at Heritage Foundation – Republican Sen. Marco Rubio speaks at the Heritage Foundation on 'Countering Authoritarianism and Advancing U.S. Interests in Latin America', addressing why such repression matters to the U.S. and what should be done to counter and overcome it Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:30 PM GOP Sen. Jeff Flake speaks at NPC – NPC Headliners Luncheon with Republican Sen. Jeff Flake speaking on 'Truth, Falsehoods, and the Dangerous State of Our Politics: A Way Forward' Location: The National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

1:00 PM NSA McMaster keynotes U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum event marking Syria conflict anniversary – 'Syria: Is the Worst Yet to Come?' U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum event marking 7th anniversary of the Syrian conflict, to examine the 'ongoing atrocities against civilians' and highlight the 'strength and resilience of the Syrian people in the face of these crimes'. Includes keynote from National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, with panelists including Syrian American Medical Society Member Samer Attar, FREE-Syria Co-founder and Director Rafif Jouejati and a representative from Syrian Civil Defense Location: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Pl SW, Washington, DC <http://www.ushmm.org/> <https://twitter.com/HolocaustMuseum>

2:00 PM GOP Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Mia Love speak at Heritage Foundation – 'Empowering Women through Conservative Policy' Heritage Foundation discussion, with House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Republican Rep. Mia Love speaking on 'a more dynamic way' to understand women's issues and the intersection of public policy, free enterprise, and family life Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

4:00 PM Atlantic Council discussion on the Maldives – 'Crisis in Maldives: Implications for U.S. Policy in the Indo-Pacific' Atlantic Council South Asia Center and Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security panel discussion, on the ongoing political turmoil in the Maldives following President Abdulla Yameen's implementation of a state of emergency. Speakers include former Maldives Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Naseem Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil> #ACSouthAsia

6:00 PM 'Pakistan Relations with the US and Regional Developments in South Asia' WFPG discussion – Women's Foreign Policy Group Embassy Series host 'Pakistan Relations with the US and Regional Developments in South Asia', with Pakistan Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry Location: 3517 International Ct NW, Washington, DC www.wfpg.org <https://twitter.com/wfpg>

7:00 PM 2018 Congressional Hockey Challenge – 10th annual Congressional Hockey Challenge – charity game between lawmakers (Members of Congress, Congressional staff, administration officials, USA Warriors Hockey team members) and lobbyists. Players include Reps. Erik Paulsen, Mike Quigley, Tom Emmer, Larry Bucshon, John

Katko, and Brian Higgins, and lobbyists from companies including Associated General Contractors of America, UPS, JetBlue, and Google Location: Kettler Capitals Iceplex, 627 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA <http://congressionalhockeychallenge.com/>
<https://twitter.com/HockeyCHC>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Melania is back and planning to meet with representatives from Twitter, Facebook, Google, and others to lead the fight against online bullying. Apparently, the word 'irony' doesn't translate from Slovenian. But all she has to do to fight cyber-bullying is take a hammer to her husband's thumbs and phone. Melania Trump holding a summit to stop cyber-bullying is like Camille Cosby calling a meeting with Benadryl."

Stephen Colbert: "One journalist has heard that [Stormy] Daniels suggests Trump likes it when women aren't nice to him, treat him in, perhaps, denigrating ways. Well, I knew Trump was a bad President, but I didn't know that Trump was 'a bad President.'"

Stephen Colbert: "In addition to Rex Tillerson, Gary Cohn, and Hope Hicks, we also learned that Trump's personal assistant was just fired, although he was actually escorted from the White House on Monday. I assume he wanted to beat the rush. ... Apparently, [John] McEntee was fired because he is currently under investigation by the Department of Homeland Security for serious financial crimes. And that's Jared Kushner's job. ... So Trump is now without a personal assistant, but he's already had one qualified applicant apply for the job: Tex Rillerson."

James Corden: "President Trump was in San Diego yesterday giving a speech to assembled members of the Marine Corps, and at one point the President said he wants to create a new branch of the military that would patrol outer space. And get this, he wants to call it the 'Space Force.' I'm not joking. 'Space force.' It sounds like what my grandma calls Star Wars. ... But the President didn't stop there. In the same speech, Trump claimed that the United States would be going to Mars, quote, 'very soon.' Damn, that space force works fast. ... I give him credit for not following that up with saying the Martians are going to pay for it."

James Corden: "While the President was in San Diego, he examined some prototypes of his proposed border wall with Mexico. And Trump remarked that the wall must be a tough obstacle because people trying to cross the border are, quote, 'like professional mountain climbers.' ... Trump basically thinks everyone trying to get into America illegally is some sort of Mexican Batman. But look, I'm no big idea man like Donald Trump. I'm not, okay? But obviously, obviously, if you build the wall high enough, the 'Space Force' can just take it from there."

Trevor Noah: "Ever since the shooting in Parkland, Florida, young people have been leading the charge for sensible gun reform. And today, on the one-month anniversary of that shooting, they kicked things up a notch with a nationwide school walkout. That's right, for once, the students evacuated on their own terms."

Jimmy Fallon: "[In a speech yesterday], Trump talked about going to Mars. Listen to what he said about it." **President Donald Trump:** "Very soon, we're going to Mars. You wouldn't have been going to Mars if my opponent won, that I can tell you. You wouldn't even be thinking about it." **Fallon:** "And the Martians were like, 'Okay, we need to build a wall. Have Uranus pay for it.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump looked at prototypes for his border wall to decide what it should be made of. So far, he's narrowed it down to three materials. First there's concrete. Then

there's metal. And his personal favorite, fired White House staffers."

Jimmy Fallon: "I heard that Trump wants to fire his Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Trump said he might do the job himself since he's a veteran of several affairs."

Seth Meyers: "After Democratic candidate Conor Lamb declared victory last night in Pennsylvania's special election, a 'Fox And Friends' host suggested that Lamb won because of his attractive looks. Because if there's one thing that Congress is full of, it's stone-cold hotties."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump was in California this week to view prototypes of his proposed border wall and said parts of the wall would have see-through capability. Said his architect, 'In that case, it's done?'"

Seth Meyers: "First Lady Melania Trump will host tech industry leaders at the White House next week to discuss her campaign against cyber-bullying where she's expected to say, 'You guys talk to him!'"

Jordan Klepper: "A special congressional election last night in District 18 which Trump won by 20 points may have turned blue and elected Democrat Conor Lamb. I know, I am upset as well because districts are like body parts. When they turn blue, something has gone terribly wrong. Now until a recount confirms my truth, it looks like Democrat Conor Lamb has flipped the district. How? By using a devious tactic focusing on, and I hope I am saying this right, local issues."

Jordan Klepper: [Referring to Trump's CIA Director pick Gina Haspel] "There is an old saying that behind every great woman in the Trump Administration, there are three men who were hired for her job first but committed treason or perjury or fraud or domestic abuse or general ineptitude, and then after a long period of public outcry, they were gently asked to submit their resignations in a cloud of shame, but when that cloud settled, who was left standing there? A woman."

Samantha Bee: "We said hello to a new Democratic Representative from Pennsylvania, Conor Lamb, who squeaked out a victory by less than a thousand votes. Two years ago, Trump won this area by more than 20 points. ... I'm enjoying this new radical Democratic strategy called 'trying.' Really makes you wonder, what if we keep trying?"

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Conversation Contents

IWCC chairs and media presence at mtg

Attachments:

/73. IWCC chairs and media presence at mtg/1.1 IWCC Mtg Agenda.pdf

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 13 2018 13:47:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: undisclosed-recipients:;
Bill Brewster (b) (6) >, Cameron Hanes (b) (6), Chris Hudson (b) (6) >, Denise Welker (b) (6), Erica Rhoad (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, Gary Steven Kania (b) (6) Ivan Carter (b) (6) >, Jenifer Chatfield (b) (6), "John J. Jackson, III" (b) (6) >, "K. Michael Ingram" (b) (6)
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Subject: IWCC chairs and media presence at mtg
Attachments: IWCC Mtg Agenda.pdf

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Public/Press

The IWCC meeting from 10:15am-3:30pm is open to the public and media/press representatives *will* be in attendance, everything is on the record. I anticipate approximately 50

members of the public in attendance.

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Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
International Wildlife Conservation Council

Office (703) 358-2639
Cell (571) 329-1172

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Division of Visitor Services and Communications
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
MS: NWRS
Falls Church, VA 22041

Peter Horn <(b) (6)>

From: Peter Horn <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tue Mar 13 2018 16:59:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: IWCC chairs and media presence at mtg

Josh
Assume dark suit for Friday

What is dress for reception?

Peter

Sent from my iPhone

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<IWCC Mtg Agenda.pdf>

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 14 2018 13:09:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Peter Horn <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: IWCC chairs and media presence at mtg

Peter,

Please take the following guidance with a grain of salt, I'm color-blind and fashion-backward: I will be wearing a navy blue (I think!) suit and tie for the March 16th meeting. Business-casual for the March 15th reception is a good choice.

-Joshua

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<IWCC Mtg Agenda.pdf>

Peter Horn (b) (6) >

From: Peter Horn (b) (6) >
Sent: Wed Mar 14 2018 13:40:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: IWCC chairs and media presence at mtg

J Good call

P

Sent from my iPhone

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<IWCC Mtg Agenda.pdf>

PAUL BABAZ <(b) (6)>

From: PAUL BABAZ <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wed Mar 14 2018 17:57:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: IWCC chairs and media presence at mtg

Mr. Winchell, please know that I have not been able to connect with Ms Johnson so I made my own travel arrangements and will not ask for reimbursement.

On another note, have been in Brussels meeting with the EU's Intergroup on Hunting and Conservation, followed by a meeting in Budapest, Hungary for a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister in regards to the world hunting exposition that will held in 2021. If we have time, I'd like to speak with Principal Deputy Director offline about these meetings and anyone else he feels should be included.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 13, 2018, at 3:47 PM, Winchell, Joshua <joshua_winchell@fws.gov> wrote:

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<IWCC Mtg Agenda.pdf>

Conversation Contents

additional March 15 and 16 IWCC event/mtg details

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/76. additional March 15 and 16 IWCC event/mtg details/1.1 IWCC March 15,16 events (1).pdf

/76. additional March 15 and 16 IWCC event/mtg details/2.1 IWCC March 15,16 events (1).pdf

"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 14 2018 14:40:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Bill Brewster <(b) (6)>, Cameron Hanes <(b) (6)>, Chris Hudson <(b) (6)>, Denise Welker <(b) (6)>, Erica Rhoad <(b) (6)>, Gary Steven Kania <(b) (6)>, Ivan Carter <(b) (6)>, Jenifer Chatfield <(b) (6)>, "John J. Jackson, III" <(b) (6)>, "K. Michael Ingram" <(b) (6)>, Keith Mark <(b) (6)>, Olivia Nalos Opre <(b) (6)>, Paul Babaz <(b) (6)>, Peter Lewis Horn II <(b) (6)>, Steve Chancellor <(b) (6)>, Terry Maple <(b) (6)>
To: Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Cassidy <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)>@fws.gov
CC:
Subject: additional March 15 and 16 IWCC event/mtg details
Attachments: IWCC March 15,16 events (1).pdf

Council Members:

IWCC meeting materials, including comments and questions submitted by the public, have been posted to the IWCC website [here](#). I will post any additional materials submitted during or after the meeting to the same location.

Attached is a PDF with details and instructions to help get you through the events and meetings March 15 and March 16th.

Do not hesitate to call me with questions.

-Joshua

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"Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>

From: "Winchell, Joshua" <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 14 2018 14:42:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Phil LePelch <phil_lepelch@fws.gov>
CC: Linda Walker <(b) (6)>
Subject: Fwd: additional March 15 and 16 IWCC event/mtg details
Attachments: IWCC March 15,16 events (1).pdf

FYI - final IWCC event/mtg schedule and associated instructions to IWCC members.

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

From: **Winchell, Joshua** <joshua_winchell@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 4:40 PM
Subject: additional March 15 and 16 IWCC event/mtg details
To: (b) (6), (b) (6) >, Cameron Hanes <(b) (6)>,
Chris Hudson <(b) (6)>, Denise Welker <(b) (6)>, Erica
Rhoad <(b) (6)>, Gary Steven Kania <(b) (6)>, Ivan
Carter <(b) (6)>, Jenifer Chatfield <(b) (6)>, "John J.
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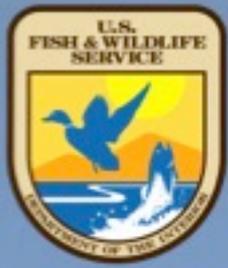
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Our Mission



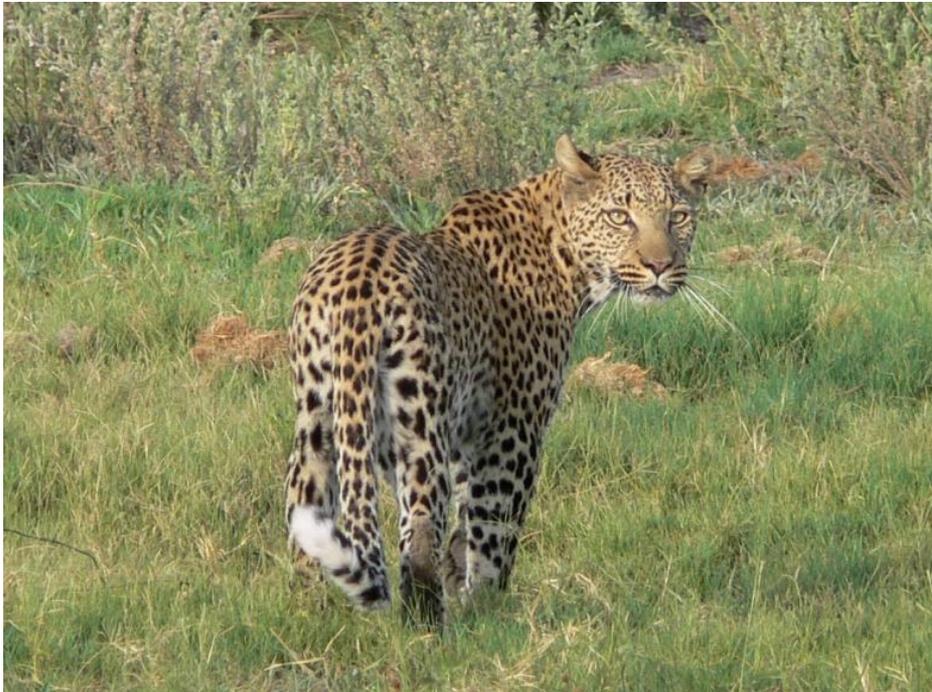
“Work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people”

Why do we care about international conservation?





Iconic species capture the hearts, imagination, and adventurous spirit of Americans of every generation.



- Of U.S. citizens traveling abroad in 2015, 31.5 percent visited a national park or monument.
- International hunters (74% from the U.S.) contributed more than \$325 million to East/Southern African country economies annually.

Since 2011, Americans have purchased more than 38 million tiger stamps to support international conservation efforts.



Wildlife and ecosystems support billions of people and drive the world's economy through:

- Hunting
- Nature-based tourism
- Wild-sourced food
- Pest control
- Seed dispersal
- Medicines

To name just a few!





The U.S. is one of the world's largest importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife products. Through implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), we ensure sustainable use of native and non-native CITES-listed species and combat wildlife trafficking in collaboration with State agencies.

Our participation in CITES facilitates trade between the U.S. and 182 member countries and the European Union.





FWS International Conservation Efforts

- International conservation across the agency
 - Office of Law Enforcement (enforcement, inspection, capacity building)
 - International Affairs (financial assistance, permits, policy)
 - Migratory Birds (hunting, financial assistance)
 - Ecological Services (Endangered Species Act and foreign species listing/delisting)
 - Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation (invasive species)
 - Regional programs (Canada/Mexico cooperation)



International Wildlife Conservation Strategy Development

- **Goal:** Develop an enduring vision that defines the Service's niche in international conservation; strengthens cooperation with partners and stakeholders; and leverages additional support for international wildlife conservation priorities.
- **Objectives:**
 - Articulate the ways in which the Service currently engages in international conservation
 - Document our legal mandates
 - Engage external stakeholders and provide opportunities for feedback



International Wildlife Conservation Strategy Development

- **Process and timeline:**
 - Define project goals and objectives, solidify project team, and develop plan for stakeholder engagement (January-March 2018)
 - Gather data from stakeholders (April-July 2018)
 - Analyze data (ongoing)
 - Develop strategies and a vision for the Service's role in international wildlife conservation (July-September 2018)
 - Present the vision to stakeholders (September-October 2018)

Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement





Office of Law Enforcement



- ❖ Inspection Program
- ❖ Investigations
- ❖ National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab
- ❖ Law Enforcement Attachés

Wildlife Inspectors



- 123 Wildlife Inspectors
- 7 K9 teams
- 14 Supervisory Wildlife Inspectors
- 5 Senior Wildlife Inspectors





Wildlife Inspectors

- Wildlife Inspectors at U.S. 37 ports of entry:
- - work closely with Customs & Border Protection
- - have border search authority
- - enforce FWS regulations and international treaties
- - search for smuggled wildlife



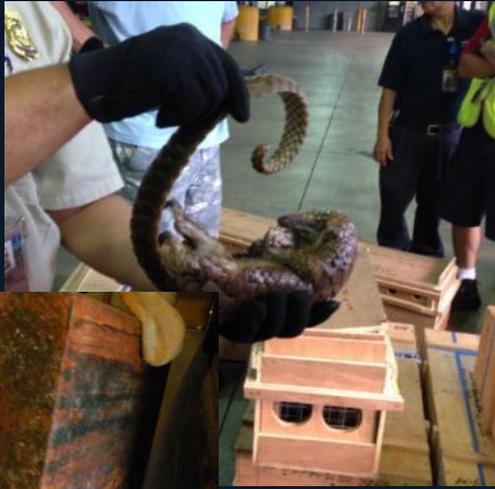


Special Agents

- Plain Clothes
- Criminal Investigators
- Arrest Authority
- Overt and Covert Investigations
- Utilize broad array of investigative techniques



International Investigations





National Fish & Wildlife *Forensic Laboratory*



- **The only forensic lab in the world dedicated to crimes against wildlife.**
- **Chemistry Unit**
 - i.e. poisonings, pesticides, trace evidence
- **Criminalistics Unit**
 - i.e. latent prints, ballistics,
- **Genetics Unit**
 - i.e. DNA; identification of species, populations, individuals, parentage
- **Morphology Unit**
 - i.e. species ID based on physical characteristics
- **Pathology Unit**
 - i.e. cause of death determination





Role of the USFWS *Special Agent Attachés*

- Support regional capacity building
- Leverage USG assets for use in CWT efforts
- Coordinate transnational investigations and information sharing
- Support host government's and regional CWT investigations with a nexus to the U.S.

International Affairs Program: Financial Assistance



Financial Assistance Programs

1. Species

2. Regional

3. Emerging Priority Threats





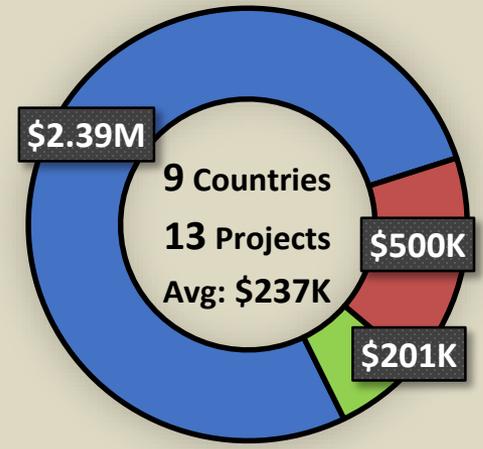
African Elephant Conservation Act (1988)



Priority Activities:

- ✓ Protection of at-risk elephant populations
- ✓ Anti-poaching operations: Improved detection, interdiction, and prosecution of wildlife crime

FY17 Funding:
\$3.09M; \$7.59M Leveraged



■ USFWS-MSCF ■ USAID-AFR ■ USPS-Stamp

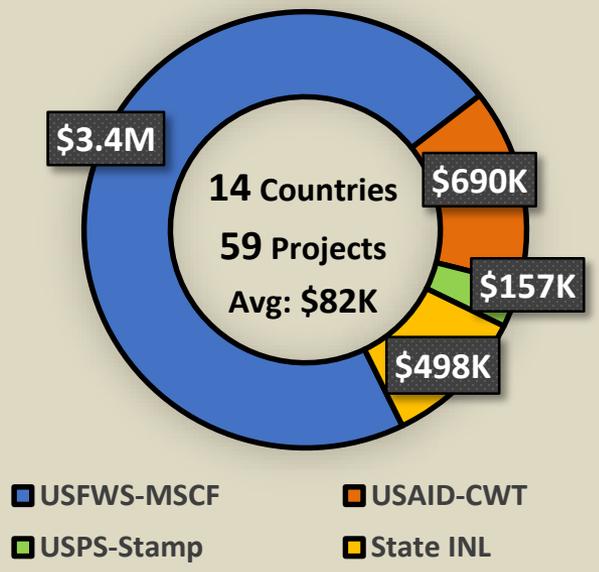


Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act (1994)



- Priority Activities:**
- ✓ Protection of at-risk populations
 - ✓ Anti-poaching operations: Improved detection, interdiction, and prosecution of wildlife crime

FY17 Funding:
\$4.8M; \$11.1M Leveraged





Asian Elephant Conservation Act (1997)

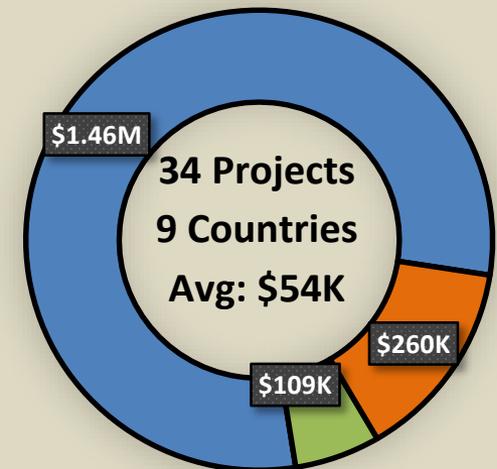


Priority Activities:

- ✓ Perpetuate healthy populations of wild Asian elephants and conserve their habitats
- ✓ Enhance protection of at-risk populations and their habitats
- ✓ Mitigate human-elephant conflict

FY17 Funding:

\$1.84M; \$2.74M Leveraged



■ USFWS-MSCF ■ USAID-CWT ■ USPS-Stamp

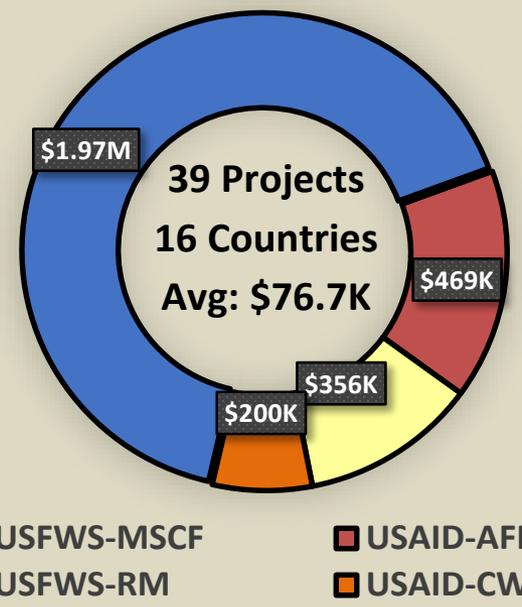


Great Ape Conservation Act (2000)



- Priority Activities:**
- ✓ Sustain viable populations in the wild
 - ✓ Prevent habitat loss from forest fragmentation and degradation
 - ✓ Reducing trade in, and consumer demand for, illegally harvested apes

FY17 Funding
\$3.0M; \$2.9M Leveraged





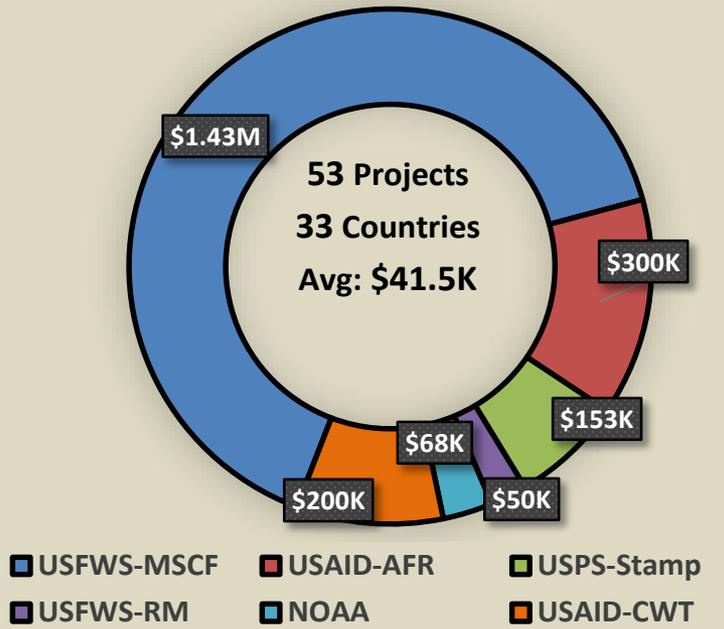
Marine Turtle Conservation Act (2004)



Priority Activities:

- ✓ Developing local and institutional capacity for sea turtle conservation
- ✓ Supporting the creation of National Conservation Action Plans
- ✓ Reducing bycatch with communities

FY17 Funding:
\$2.2M; \$3.0M Leveraged



Types of IA Financial Assistance Programs

1. Species

2. Regional

3. Emerging Priority Threats





Through our **regional programs**, we work with governments, agencies, and other partners to conserve wildlife and high value landscapes that provide economic, geopolitical, and other benefits to the American people.





Central Africa / CARPE



Priority Activities:

- Securing Congo Basin wildlife by:
- ✓ professionalizing park guards
 - ✓ improving law enforcement effectiveness
 - ✓ site-based conservation activities

FY17 Funding:
\$15.1M; \$13.7M Leveraged



■ USAID-AFR



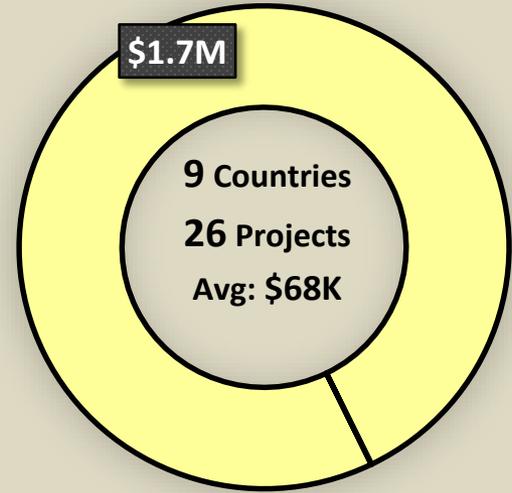
Western Hemisphere



Priority Activities:

- ✓ Species and habitat management
- ✓ Wildlife law enforcement
- ✓ Institutional strengthening
- ✓ Public private partnerships

FY17 Funding:
\$1.7M; \$1.8M Leveraged



■ USFWS-RM

Types of IA Financial Assistance Programs

1. Species
2. Regional
3. Emerging Priority Threats





Combating Wildlife Trafficking

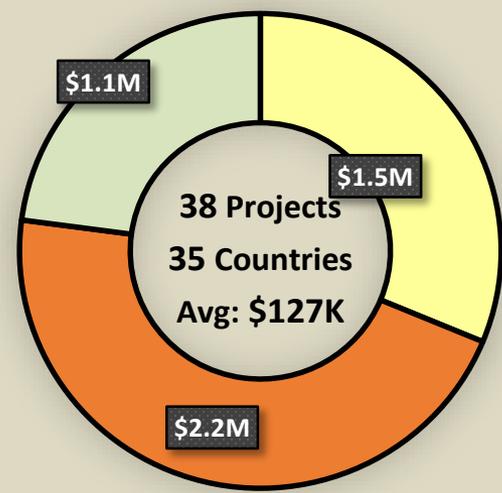


Priority Activities:

- ✓ Address trafficking threat in priority species
- ✓ Support CITES and build CITES capacity
- ✓ Implement the Eliminate, Neutralize, Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act

\$4.8M: \$1.9 Leveraged

**FY17 Funding:
\$4.8M; \$1.9M Leveraged**



USFWS-RM
 USAID-CWT
 USAID/INL IAA

The End



U.S. Efforts to Combat Wildlife Trafficking





What is the Problem?

- Dramatic increases in the scope and scale of poaching to supply illegal trade;
- Landscape-scale losses of wildlife populations, both iconic and little known;
- Wildlife trafficking undermines security, weakens institutions and exacerbates official corruption;
- More than 1,000 rangers have died in the past decade;
- Responses were insufficient.



Wildlife trafficking is taking a devastating toll on some of the world's most treasured species.



*1,028 rhinos
poached in South
Africa in 2017*

*More than 30,000
elephants poached
every year*





It's also impacting many lesser-known species that are important food sources for local communities, support healthy ecosystems, and supply clean air and water.



More than 1 million pangolins have been poached in the last decade

African grey parrots are poached to supply the pet trade





Internationally, wildlife trafficking has emerged as a crisis that imperils both conservation and global security. It can destabilize local communities and national governments by exacerbating corruption and poor governance and reducing ecotourism revenue, a major source of income for many nations.



A ranger is killed in the line of duty, on average, every three days.



Here in the U.S., wildlife trafficking can undercut legal trade and reduce populations of domestic species that are in demand around the globe. American ginseng, bobcat, alligators, and paddlefish are the foundation of significant economies that Americans depend on.



Declared values of U.S. exports of skins, 2013-2015:

American alligator:	\$355.9 million
Bobcat:	\$29.8 million
River otter:	\$4.4 million



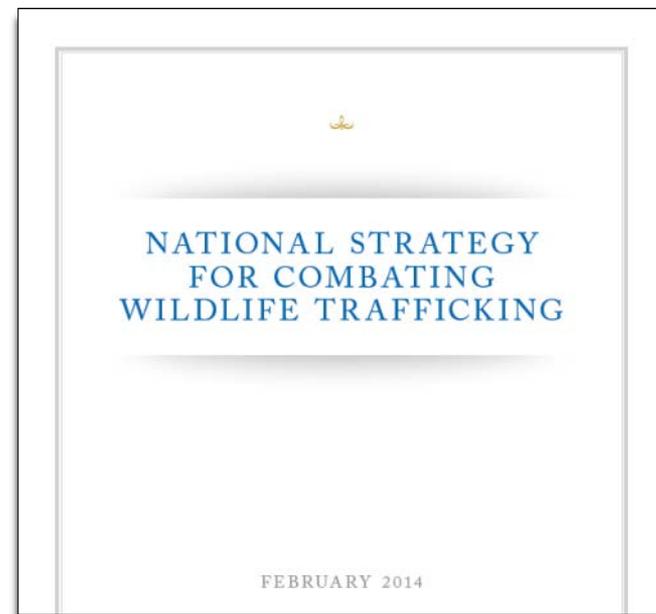
Executive Order: Wildlife Trafficking

- Executive Order announced July 1, 2013
- Established a Presidential Task Force
- Co-chaired by Departments of Interior, State and Justice
- Called for the Task Force to develop a National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking



National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking

- National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking signed on February 11, 2014
- Lays out a whole-of-government approach across 17 federal departments and agencies
- Focuses on three areas of intervention:
 - Strengthening enforcement and prosecution
 - Reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife
 - Expanding international cooperation and commitment





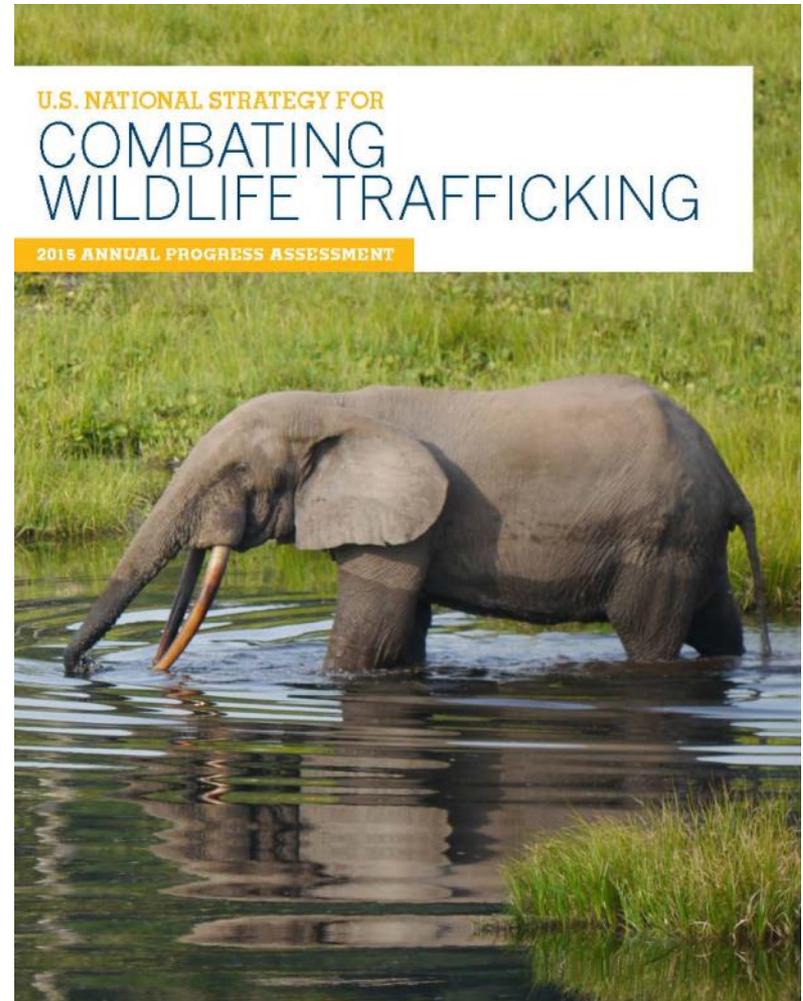
Implementation Plan

- Implementation Plan launched on February 11, 2015
- Outlines specific commitments delivering on each of the 24 objectives in the National Strategy
- Progress measures
- Lead and participating agencies identified



Annual Progress

- Annual Progress Assessments and Fact Sheets have documented major actions to date.



President Trump's Executive Order

- In February 2017, President Trump signed the Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking, identifying wildlife trafficking as a focal area.





END Wildlife Trafficking Act

- Bipartisan Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act signed into law in October 2016
- Endorses and enshrines the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking and its National Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Makes wildlife trafficking a liable offense for money laundering prosecution
- Requires an annual report that identifies “focus countries” determined to be a major source, transit point, or consumer of wildlife trafficking products and makes a special designation for “countries of concern”
- Requires USG to prepare and implement strategic plans for combating wildlife trafficking for these countries



Wildlife Trafficking Task Force

Some major actions taken under the National Strategy include:

- A near total ban on elephant ivory trade;
- A comparable Chinese ivory trade ban;
- Domestic and international demand reduction campaigns;
- Law Enforcement, prosecution and judicial training and capacity building;



Wildlife Trafficking Task Force

Some major actions taken under the National Strategy include:

- Stationing wildlife law enforcement attachés;
- Conducting long-term, covert investigations to address organized criminal enterprises;
- ARREST;
- Developing new technologies and partnerships.



Conclusions and Next Steps

- A whole-of-government approach bringing all relevant tools to bear.
- Addressing all parts of the trade chain.
- Implementing the END Wildlife Trafficking Act.

Dear Mr. Winchell and International Wildlife Conservation Committee:

As a conservation journalist planning to travel to Namibia in 2018 to write about the economic benefits of tourism/trophy hunting there, I would like to recommend 3 Africa-based experts who may add insight to the IWCC's study of trophy hunting impacts in Africa:

1. **Dr. Phillip Muruthi**, chief scientist for African Wildlife Foundation - Kenya-based, he works all across Africa, https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-extreme-life-of-a-conservation-scientist_us_5a0c36bfe4b06d8966cf33d8
2. **Dr Laurie Marker** - Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund - An American who has been in Namibia for over 20 years working with local farmers, endangered species, hunters, tourism, conservationists researching and implementing very effective win-win solutions. <https://cheetah.org/about-us/staff/laurie-l-marker-dphil/>
3. **Kai-Uwe Denker** with the Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA) - He is an award-winning Namibian tracker-ranger. He is someone our US hunters might employ to guide them through a successful hunt. <http://huntnamibia.com.na/2017/08/22/conservationist-beyond-doubt-kai-uwe-denker/>

I noticed the informational submissions to the committee focus on South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Kenya, with one expert in Tanzania. I would add that each country has very different regulatory structures not to mention hopes and economic issues. Low-population countries like Namibia and Botswana have differ from South Africa in approach and economic goals.

Finally, I saw in one of the public comments that the NRDC has offered to be on the IWCC - I would highly recommend this.

Thank you for putting together this public process

Sincerely,

Marianne Messina, Editor/Blogger

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/marianne-messina>

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**International Wildlife Conservation Council
Charter**

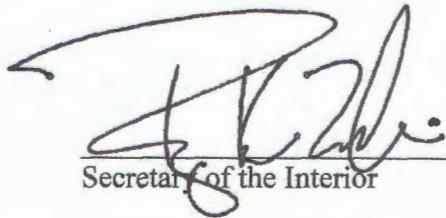
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- f) Reviewing seizure and forfeiture actions/practices, and providing recommendations for regulations that will lead to a reduction of unwarranted actions.
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Secretary of the Interior

NOV 03 2017

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Date Filed

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

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Charter**

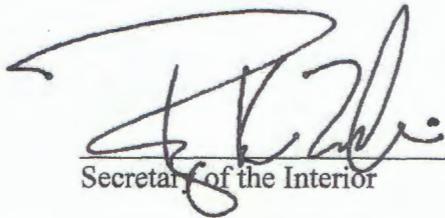
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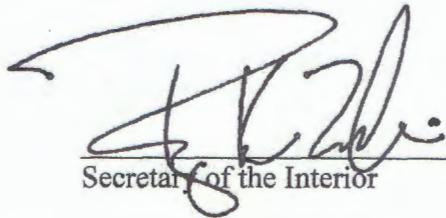
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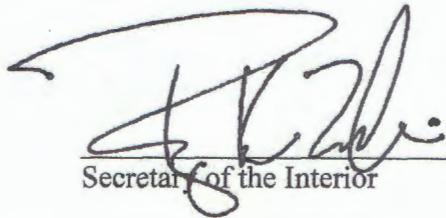
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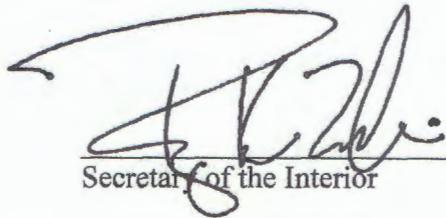
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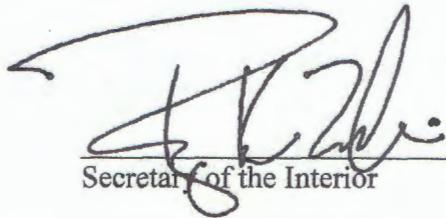
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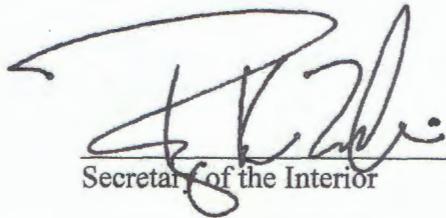
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<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation?</u>
Actman, Jani	National Geographic
Akuetteh, Nueteki	British Embassy
Arha, Kaush	USAID
Babaz, Paul	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Bevir, John	Feature Story News (camera)
Biesecker, Michael	Associated Press
Boudreaux, Paul	Journal of Intl Wildlife Law and Policy
Brewster, Bill	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Brown, Malcomb	Feature Story News (camera)
Carter, Ivan	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Chancellor, Steven	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Chatfield, Jenifer	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Cochrane, Emily	New York Times
Dlouhy, Jennifer	Bloomberg News
Doyle, Brian	EENews
Dylewski, Kate	Animal Welfare Institute
Ebbs, Stephanie	ABC News
Frostic, Anna	Humane Society Legislative Fund
Ganim, Sara	CNN
Goergen, Joseph	Safari Club International Foundation
Green, Miranda	The Hill
Greenwald, Noah	Center for Biological Diversity
Hahn, Deb	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Hanes, Cameron	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Hofberg, Mark	International Fund for Animal Welfare
Horn II, Peter Lewis	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Horton, Harry	Feature Story News
Hudson, Chris	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Ingram, Mike	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Jackson, John	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Kalinina, Masha	Humane Society International
Kania, Gary	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Kitchen, Bill	
Kluck, Julie	Born Free USA
Kurose, Stephanie	Center for Biological Diversity
LaFontaine, Peter	International Fund for Animal Welfare
Lessard, Sarah	House Committee on Natural Resources
Lopes, Paulo	Center for Biological Diversity
Maple, Terry	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Mark, Keith	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Mathews, Rachel	PETA
Mencimer, Stephanie	Mother Jones Magazine
Messina, Marianne	Huffington Post

Myers, Marshall	N. Marshall Meyers PLLC
Nowak, Katarzyna	The Safina Center
Olson, Steve	Association of Zoos and Aquiriums
Opre, Olivia Nalos	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Parsons, Rick	Safari Club International
Place, Jennifer	Pike Associates LLC
Rhoad, Erica	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member
Rude, Amanda	Legal Atlas
Ryntjes, Daniel	Feature Story News
Sala, Joseph	The ANN Group
Salamat, Lisa Ann	WildCat Legal Aid Foundation
Sedlacek, Keisha	Humane Society Legislative Fund
Seidman, Anna	Safari Club International
Seminario, Alejandra	Defenders of Wildlife
Sheldon, Colin	Wildlife Conservation Society
Snyder, Lora	House Committee on Natural Resources
Stratton, Carter	Animal Welfare Institute
Su, Jean	Center for Biological Diversity
Taylor, Katie	Defenders of Wildlife
Vitello, Frank	Zoological Association of America
Vogt, Heidi	Wall Street Journal
Wallace, Greg	CNN
Watson, Rowena	U.S. Department of State
Welker, Denise	International Wildlife Conservation Council Member

note: visitors in bold are press/media

use MIB

FACA Background

- Passed by Congress in 1972 to regulate numerous groups providing advice to the Federal Government
- FACA:
 - Is a procedural statute
 - Allows Congressional oversight (file charters, file reports, appropriations)
 - Provides for public participation
- Codified at 5 U.S.C. App. 2; 41 C.F.R. Part 102-3

Applicability

- Groups established or utilized by the Executive branch for the purpose of obtaining advice or recommendations
- “Utilized” means ‘actual management and control’
- Does not apply to:
 - individual advice
 - operational committees
 - inter/intra-governmental committees
 - Exchanges of facts or information

Consequences of a FACA violation

- Good news:
 - No criminal penalties, no fines
- Bad news:
 - Litigation
 - time-consuming
 - future meetings could be prohibited
 - use of the group's past recommendations and/or supporting documents could be prohibited

Requirements

- Advisory functions only
- Establish by law, Presidential authority, or discretionary
- File a Charter containing authority, mission, goals, objectives, and logistics
- Maintain a balanced membership
- Maintain all committee documents for public inspection

Requirements, cont.

- Hold open public meetings
- Allow public to speak and/or file written statements at meetings
- Announce all meetings in the Federal Register – 15 days in advance
- Create and certify detailed public minutes
- Designate Federal employee (DFO) who:
 - Approves and calls meetings
 - Approves agenda
 - Attends meetings and adjourns if in the public interest
- Terminate according to statute, when purpose completed, or after 2 years (unless renewed)

Subcommittees

- Defined as groups reporting to full advisory committee; may include non-committee members
- Do not directly advise the president or any federal agency
- Must act only under direction of DFO.
- FACA notice and open meeting requirements do not apply to subcommittee meetings.
 - Permissible *only* so long as subcommittee reporting to full committee for its consideration and deliberation

INTERNAL DISCUSSION DRAFT - DO NOT DISTRIBUTE

International Wildlife Conservation Council

Agenda for Inaugural Meeting - March 16, 2018

Main Interior Building 1849 C St. NW, Washington D.C.

Office of the Deputy Secretary

8:30-9am: IWCC member coffee/reception w/ Deputy Secretary

North Penthouse

9-10am: Administrative Session: Closed to public.

- Federal Advisory Committee Act Briefing - DOI Solicitor's Office
- Ethics Briefing - DOI Ethics Office

South Penthouse

10:15-10:30 Opening Remarks (Sheehan)

- *Note:* This starts the open/public mtg

10:30-11am: Member Introductions

11am-12pm: FWS International Affairs Program Briefing (FWS)

12-1pm: Lunch

1-2pm: U.S. Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking Briefing (FWS)

2-2:30pm: Public Comment

2:30-3:30pm: Discussion

3:30pm Adjourn

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**International Wildlife Conservation Council
Charter**

1. **Official Designation.** International Wildlife Conservation Council (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is established in furtherance of 43 U.S.C. 1457, the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j), and other Acts applicable to specific bureaus. This Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Council will provide advice and recommendations to the Federal Government, through the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), focused on increased public awareness domestically regarding the conservation, wildlife law enforcement, and economic benefits that result from United States citizens traveling to foreign nations to engage in hunting. Additionally, the Council shall advise the Secretary on the benefits international hunting has on foreign wildlife and habitat conservation, anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking programs, and other ways in which international hunting benefits human populations in these areas.
4. **Description of Duties.** The duties of the Council are solely advisory and include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Developing a plan for public engagement and education on the benefits of international hunting.
 - b) Reviewing and making recommendations for changes, when needed, on all Federal programs, and/or regulations, to ensure support of hunting as:
 1. An enhancement to foreign wildlife conservation and survival; and
 2. An effective tool to combat illegal trafficking and poaching.
 - c) Recommending strategies to benefit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's permit office in receiving timely country data and information so as to remove barriers that impact consulting with range states.
 - d) Recommending removal of barriers to the importation into the United States of legally hunted wildlife.
 - e) Ongoing review of import suspension/bans and providing recommendations that seek to resume the legal trade of those items, where appropriate.

- f) Reviewing seizure and forfeiture actions/practices, and providing recommendations for regulations that will lead to a reduction of unwarranted actions.
- g) Reviewing the Endangered Species Act's foreign listed species and interaction with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, with the goal of eliminating regulatory duplications.
- h) Recommending methods for streamlining/expediting processing of import permits.
- i) At the conclusion of each meeting, or shortly thereafter, provide a detailed recommendation report, including meeting minutes, to the DFO.

- 5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Council reports to the Secretary through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).
- 6. **Support.** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council are estimated to be \$250,000 per year, including all direct and indirect expenses and .50 Federal staff years.
- 8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO approves or calls all Council and subcommittee meetings, prepares and approves all meeting agendas, attends all Council and subcommittee meetings, adjourns any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chairs meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.
- 9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet approximately two times annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
- 10. **Duration.** Continuing.
- 11. **Termination.** The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
- 12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council will consist of no more than 18 discretionary and 4 ex officio members.

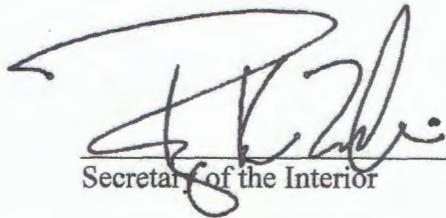
(a) Ex officio members will include:

- 1. Secretary of the Interior or designated Department of the Interior representatives;
and
- 2. Secretary of State or designated Department of State representatives.

- (b) The remaining discretionary members will be selected from among, but not limited to, the entities listed below. These members must be senior-level representatives of their organizations and/or have the ability to represent their designated constituency.
1. Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations;
 2. U.S. hunters actively engaged in international and/or domestic hunting conservation;
 3. The firearms or ammunition manufacturing industry;
 4. Archery and/or hunting sports industry; and
 5. Tourism, outfitter, and/or guide industries related to international hunting.
- (c) Alternate members may be appointed to the Council. Alternate members must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending meetings as representatives. Alternate members shall have experience and/or expertise similar to that of the primary member. Alternate members may deliberate and vote on Council matters only in the absence of the primary member.
- (d) Members will be appointed for staggered terms of 3 years, as designated by the Secretary, at the time of the initial appointment. A vacancy on the Council will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary. A member may serve after the expiration of his or her term until a successor is appointed.
- (e) Council members may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Council members must attend at least one Council meeting annually and cannot miss two successive meetings. Council membership will be forfeited if an appointee does not meet these attendance requirements.
- (f) The Council shall elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson by affirmative vote of a majority of its members. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will serve a term of 1 year, renewable for 1 additional year. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may be replaced before his or her term ends by affirmative vote of a majority of the Council's members.
- (g) Members of the Council serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council or subcommittee business that is approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

(h) A vacancy on the Council will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any Council or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed to compile information or conduct research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
15. **Recordkeeping.** The Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Council, must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records must be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

NOV 03 2017

Date Signed

DEC 21 2017

Date Filed

International Wildlife Conservation Council

March 16, 2018 - Meeting Agenda

South Penthouse, Main Interior Building

1849 C St. NW, Washington, D.C.

- 10:15-10:30am: Opening Remarks (USFWS)
- 10:30-11am: Member Introductions (IWCC)
- 11am-12pm: USFWS International Affairs Program Briefing (USFWS)
- 12-1pm: Lunch
- 1-2pm: U.S. Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking Briefing (USFWS)
- 2-2:30pm: Public Comment (6 requests for comment received)
- 2:30-3:30pm: Discussion (IWCC)
- 3:30pm: Adjourn

International Wildlife Conservation Council

March 15 & 16, 2018 Events

Thursday March 15th

- *4pm-~6pm: IWCC Member Reception/Special Event with Secretary Zinke*
 - IWCC members only. No guests allowed.
 - Meet inside at the entrance of Main Interior Building (1849 C St. NW, Washington D.C.) and you will be escorted up to the reception (see Contacts, below). Please have a valid picture ID with you.
 - Following the reception IWCC members will be transported to a nearby location for a special event.
 - Contacts: Benjamin Cassidy (202 897 7259); Natalie Davis (202 208 4928)
- *6:15pm: Group Dinner at Carmine's (425 7th St. NW, Washington, D.C.)*
 - Guests allowed - please inform Joshua Winchell if you have a guest.
 - IWCC members attending the Reception/Special Event will be transported to Carmine's directly.
 - Guests and/or IWCC members unable to attend the Reception/Special Event should meet Joshua at the restaurant at 6:15pm.
 - This is an informal, non-sponsored dinner and all attendees are responsible for paying individually. Please bring cash. Entrees are in the \$30.00 range (sorry, that's D.C.)
 - Contact: Joshua Winchell (571 329-1172)

Friday March 16th

All meetings/rooms are in the Main Interior Building (1849 C St. NW, Washington D.C.)

- *8:30-9am: IWCC member coffee/reception w/ Deputy Secretary*
 - Meet inside at the entrance of Main Interior Building, you will be escorted up to the Deputy Secretary's office (See Contact, below). Please have a valid picture ID with you.
 - Contact: Benjamin Cassidy (202 897 7259)
- *9-10am: Administrative Session: Federal Advisory Committee Act & Ethics Briefings - North Penthouse*
 - This is a closed session, no public.
- *10:15-3:30pm: IWCC Meeting - South Penthouse*
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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON
DEC 27 2017

Mr. Paul D. Babaz

(b) (6)

Dear Mr. Babaz:

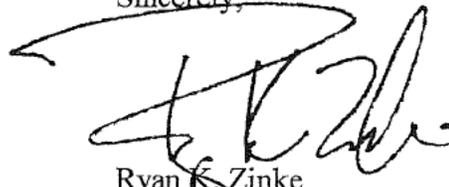
I am pleased to appoint you as a member of the International Wildlife Conservation Council (Council) representing the interests of wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations. Your appointment is for a 3-year term effective the date of this letter.

Your involvement with the Council will help support its mission to advise the Federal Government about methods to increase public awareness domestically regarding conservation, wildlife law enforcement, and economic benefits that result from United States citizens traveling to foreign nations to engage in hunting. The Council will also advise the Federal Government on the benefits international hunting has on foreign wildlife and habitat conservation, anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking programs, and other ways in which international hunting benefits human populations in these areas. The Council represents a strong partnership among the Federal Government; tourism, outfitter, and/or guide industries related to international hunting; the sporting conservation community; the shooting and hunting sports industry; and wildlife conservation organizations. Members of the Council serve without compensation, but non-Federal members may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at current Federal Government rates when on Council business. A copy of the Council's charter is enclosed for your reference.

Mr. Joshua Winchell, Designated Federal Officer for the Council, will contact you shortly with further information regarding the Council. Mr. Winchell can be reached at (571) 329-1172.

I appreciate your willingness to commit your time and expertise to ensure we have broad-based input as we address recreational hunting and wildlife conservation issues internationally.

Sincerely,



Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary of the Interior

Enclosure



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON
DEC 27 2017

Mr. Paul D. Babaz

(b) (6)

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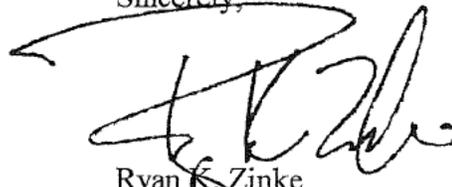
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Sincerely,



Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary of the Interior

Enclosure



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL



HUMANE SOCIETY
LEGISLATIVE FUND™



IFAW
International Fund
for Animal Welfare



CENTER *for*
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

Because life is good.



December 8, 2017

Mr. Joshua Winchell
Council Designated Federal Officer
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
joshua_winchell@fws.gov

Mr. Timothy Van Norman
Chief, Branch of Permits
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041

***Re: Comments Regarding the Composition of the Proposed International
Wildlife Conservation Council (Docket No. FWS-HQ-R-2017-N118)***

Dear Mr. Winchell and Chief Van Norman,

As detailed in our comments submitted last month, The Humane Society of the United States (“HSUS”), Humane Society International (“HSI”), Humane Society Legislative Fund (“HSLF”), Center for Biological Diversity (“CBD”), International Fund for Animal Welfare (“IFAW”), and Born Free USA (“BFUSA”) strongly urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“Service”) not to establish the euphemistically-named International Wildlife Conservation Council (“IWCC”), as establishing the IWCC would waste taxpayer resources and ignore the best available science to promote the interests of the trophy hunting industry. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. 51,857 (Nov. 8, 2017). Not only is the IWCC inessential and contrary to the public interest, the IWCC would violate the Federal Advisory Committee Act (“FACA”, 5 U.S.C. App. 2) because the proposed membership of the council is not fairly balanced and would be inappropriately influenced by commercial interests. Thus, it would be arbitrary and

capricious and not in accordance with law for the Service to rely on any recommendations submitted by this biased council. 5 U.S.C. § 706.

If the Service moves forward with establishing this duplicative and inherently biased advisory council, our proposals for the membership composition of the IWCC are discussed below.

Requirements for Establishing an Unbiased Federal Advisory Committee

The FACA provides that “new advisory committees should be established only when they are determined to be essential and their number should be kept to the minimum necessary.” 5 U.S.C. App. 2 § 2(b)(2). Further, “[n]o advisory committee shall be established unless such establishment is determined...to be in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on that agency by law.” *Id.* § 9(a)(2). Advisory committees can only be used “solely for advisory functions” (*id.* § 9(b)) and must serve a “clearly defined purpose” (*id.* § 5(b)(1)). The membership of an advisory committee must “be fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the advisory committee” (*id.* § 5(b)(2)), and must “not be inappropriately influenced by... any special interest” (*id.* § 5(b)(3)).

While federal courts have held that “an advisory committee with a narrow, technical mandate does not have to include representatives of those who might be affected by the committee’s work” (*Cargill, Inc. v. United States*, 173 F.3d 323, 338 (5th Cir. 1999)), the IWCC does not have a narrow technical mandate. Instead, the IWCC is tasked with addressing “substantive legislative policy issues” pertaining to the management of threatened and endangered wildlife, and as such any recommendations by the IWCC are *ultra vires* if the council lacks fair balance in its membership. *See Nat’l Anti-Hunger Coal. v. Exec. Comm. of President’s Private Sector Survey on Cost Control*, 566 F. Supp. 1515, 1517 (D.D.C. 1983).

Agency actions contrary to the requirements of FACA are subject to judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. § 702). *See, e.g., Fertilizer Institute v. U.S. E.P.A.*, 938 F.Supp. 52, 54-55 (D.D.C., 1996); *Cargill, Inc. v. United States*, 173 F.3d 323, 335 (5th Cir. 1999) (“courts may enforce FACA’s ‘point-of-view balance’ requirement—a ‘balance’ requirement that is even more subjective than is the functional balance requirement”); *Food Chem. News, Inc. v. Davis*, 378 F. Supp. 1048, 1049 (D.D.C. 1974) (enjoining agency from convening advisory committee meetings unless conducted in full compliance with FACA).

According to the Service, the IWCC will have up to 18 discretionary members and 4 ex officio members:

- Ex officio members will include:
 - Secretary of the Interior or designated DOI representatives; and
 - Secretary of State or designated Department of State representatives.
- The remaining members will be selected from among, but not limited to, the entities listed below. These members must be senior-level representatives of their organizations and/or have the ability to represent their designated constituency.
 - Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations;

- U.S. hunters actively engaged in international and/or domestic hunting conservation;
- The firearms or ammunition manufacturing industry;
- Archery and/or hunting sports industry; and
- Tourism, outfitter, and/or guide industries related to international hunting.

82 Fed. Reg. at 51,858.

We are greatly concerned that the proposed membership of the IWCC is inherently unfairly balanced and would cause the council to be inappropriately influenced by special interest groups in violation of FACA. 5 U.S.C. App § 5(b). Four of the five categories of proposed membership are entities that have a clear financial interest in weakening the Service's regulations pertaining to the import of hunting trophies. Further, while many wildlife conservation organizations do not support trophy hunting as a wildlife management tool, there are some organizations that self-identify as conservationists that are aligned with the trophy hunting industry, meaning that the proposed composition of the IWCC could very well consist entirely of one viewpoint on this controversial issue, in violation of FACA.

Even if the Service adds representation from conservation and wildlife management groups that recognize that the best available science shows that trophy hunting fails to enhance the survival of threatened and endangered species, the IWCC may nevertheless be unfairly balanced. For example, if the IWCC were to have four members that are trophy hunters, four members that are from the firearms or ammunition manufacturing industry, four members that are from the archery and/or hunting sports industry, and four members from the tourism/outfitter/guide industries related to international hunting, but only two members from the wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations, such a committee would not be fairly balanced.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Service, if it moves forward with establishing the IWCC, to not only adjust the purpose of the council (e.g., to evaluate whether the best available science actually supports promotion of trophy hunting), but to also ensure that individuals with knowledge and training in humane and sustainable wildlife management practices have a majority representation on the IWCC. If conservationists only have minority representation, then it would be essential that any recommendations sent from the IWCC to the Service also include dissenting views.

Because the proposed purpose of the council is contrary to our organizational missions, none of the undersigned groups are nominating themselves as formal members of the IWCC, though we plan to robustly participate in public meetings of the IWCC. In order to ensure that there is at least one member of the conservation community on the IWCC, **we hereby submit the nomination of Andrew Wetzler, Deputy Chief Program Officer at the Natural Resources Defense Council**, who is an expert in Endangered Species Act implementation (resume attached).

As detailed herein and our prior comment letters, the IWCC is unnecessary, duplicative, not in the public interest, and designed to be inappropriately influenced by the trophy hunting industry in a manner that undermines the Service's statutory duties under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 *et seq.*) and FACA. While we provide a nomination for IWCC membership, it remains our strong recommendation that the IWCC not be established at all.

Sincerely,



Anna Frostic
Managing Attorney, Wildlife Litigation
The Humane Society of the United States



Teresa M. Telecky, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Wildlife Department
Humane Society International



Keisha Sedlacek
Senior Regulatory Specialist, Federal Affairs
Humane Society Legislative Fund



Prashant K. Khetan
Chief Executive Officer & General Counsel
Born Free USA



Jeff Flocken
Regional Director
International Fund for Animal Welfare



Sarah Uhlemann
Senior Attorney & Int'l Program Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Andrew E. Wetzler

(b) (6)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

1998 - present

Natural Resources Defense Council, Chicago, Illinois

Deputy Chief Program Officer (2016 - present)

Reports to the Chief Program Officer and helps to manage all NRDC's Programs (275 staff and a \$50 million-dollar budget) including strategic planning, budgeting, and coordination. Direct management responsibility for NRDC's Health, Oceans, Water, Urban Solutions and New York Regional programs. Primary liaison with NRDC's Litigation, IT, and Facilities departments.

Co-Director, Land & Wildlife Program (2010 - 2015)

Directs NRDC's program to protect endangered wildlife and wild places, supervises a staff of twenty and a budget of \$3.5 million, including development, planning, and coordination of wildlife campaigns.

Previous Positions:

Director, Wildlife Conservation Project (2004 - 2008)

Senior Attorney, Marine Mammal Protection Project (2003 - 2004)

Senior Project Attorney, Marine Mammal Protection Project (2000 - 2003)

Project Attorney, Southern California Ecosystem Project (1998 - 2000)

- *International experience* includes work on marine mammal issues and wildlife trade, including NRDC's campaigns on ocean noise pollution, polar bear trade, elephant ivory trade, and beluga sturgeon. Experience with a wide variety of international institutions, including CITES, OSPAR, ACCOBAMS, UNEP and IUCN.
- *Lobbying experience* includes extensive lobbying in the United States, including before Congress and numerous federal agencies such as the State Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; providing testimony before Congressional Committees and State legislatures.
- *Media experience* includes numerous television and radio appearances, extensive experience with print reporters; authoring press releases and op-eds; managing social media networks; and strategic communications planning. Experience with polling and focus groups as well as message development and branding.
- *Development experience* includes foundations relations; major donor prospect identification, cultivation, and asks; and working with NRDC's Membership Department, including editing and helping to plan direct mail.

