

**From:** [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**To:** [Zachary Small](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Fact Check  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 5:56:00 PM

---

Hi Zachary, apologies for the wait. On background: To our knowledge, BIA, Navy, and Army Corps have all reported an inventory of human remains and funerary objects as required by the law.

Best,

Giovanni Rocco  
Deputy Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Cell: 202-281-8692

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**From:** Zachary Small <zsmall93@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:45 AM  
**To:** Rocco, Giovanni P <giovanni\_rocco@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fact Check

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hello Giovanni,

Several NAGPRA experts have told me that several federal agencies — including the Bureau of Federal Indian Affairs, the Department of the Navy, and the Army Corps — haven't tallied even a basic catalogue of burial remains and sacred objects as required by the law. Is this consistent with the department's findings?

--

All the best,  
Zachary H. Small

**From:** [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**To:** [Zachary Small](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] New York Times Press Request  
**Date:** Monday, July 26, 2021 4:32:00 PM

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Current information on NAGPRA can be found in that release. We appreciate the interview opportunity but respectfully decline. I made sure that you're on our press lists and can update you once we have more information to provide.

All the best,

Giovanni Rocco  
Deputy Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Cell: 202-281-8692

---

**From:** Zachary Small <zsmall93@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 3:04 PM  
**To:** Rocco, Giovanni P <giovanni\_rocco@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] New York Times Press Request

...this would have been helpful to know when it came out. We are still planning on a story. Who is available to speak on this?

On Mon, Jul 26, 2021 at 11:34 AM Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey Zachary! Appreciate the follow up. I apologize for not following up sooner on this. Passing along our recent NAGRA press release below.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-tribal-and-native-hawaiian-consultations-discuss-updates>

Giovanni Rocco  
Deputy Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Cell: 202-281-8692

---

**From:** Zachary Small <[zsmall93@gmail.com](mailto:zsmall93@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] New York Times Press Request

Hello Giovanni,

Just checking in here because I know you said an announcement was happening in the coming weeks about a month ago. Do you have a better sense of timing now?

Z

On Thu, Jun 17, 2021 at 5:23 PM Zachary Small <[zsmall93@gmail.com](mailto:zsmall93@gmail.com)> wrote:

I'll be on the lookout

On Thu, Jun 17, 2021 at 5:23 PM Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Absolutely- happy to flag for you when we have a date set so you can hear from us first.

Best,

Giovanni Rocco  
Deputy Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Cell: 202-281-8692

---

**From:** Zachary Small <[zsmall93@gmail.com](mailto:zsmall93@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] New York Times Press Request

Is it possible for you to give me a heads up when you have a date for the announcement planned?

On Thu, Jun 17, 2021 at 9:13 AM Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Off the record-- I wish we had a date to offer you but we do not. It's likely that an announcement will be made in the coming weeks so if your plan is to write a story when you have more details than I would suggest to hold off a bit and we can loop you in when that is coming. But understand if that's not doable on your end absent a hard date.

Best,

Giovanni Rocco  
Deputy Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Cell: 202-281-8692

---

**From:** Zachary Small <[zsmall93@gmail.com](mailto:zsmall93@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2021 9:06 AM  
**To:** Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] New York Times Press Request

Hello Giovanni,

Thanks for your message. Our plan is to write a story when we have some clear details on the regulation changes, and there's information already drifting around out there about what's coming. Can you give me a sense of when I might be able to get a briefing so that I can advise my editors?

Best,  
Zach

On Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 7:40 PM Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Zachary,

Thanks for reaching out. Off the record—nothing to offer you right now on this but we will soon have updates on NAGPRA. Happy to keep you looped in on that. When are you looking to file your story?

Best,

Giovanni Rocco  
Deputy Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Cell: 202-281-8692

---

**From:** Zachary Small <[zsmall93@gmail.com](mailto:zsmall93@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 10:47 AM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New York Times Press Request

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Hello,

I'm a reporter working with the New York Times on a story regarding NAGPRA regulations. We understand that the Biden administration is planning to release updates to the existing regulations with the law and are looking to get a primer on what's

coming.

I have been told by experts in the field that Melonie O'Brien is the person to speak with.  
Please let me know. You can reach me at 203-980-2967

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All the best,  
Zachary H. Small

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All the best,  
Zachary H. Small

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All the best,  
Zachary H. Small

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All the best,  
Zachary H. Small

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All the best,  
Zachary H. Small

--

All the best,  
Zachary H. Small

**From:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**To:** [Veronica Penney](#); [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Story on renewable energy development  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 5:53:00 PM

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Hi Veronica,

How does Thursday 3pm Eastern sound for a 20 minute background chat? I'll send through a calendar invite with a dial-in if that works. Thanks

Tyler Cherry  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Veronica Penney <veronica.penney@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:06 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <tyler\_cherry@ios.doi.gov>; Rocco, Giovanni P <giovanni\_rocco@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Story on renewable energy development

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Hi Melissa,

Thank you for following up. Tyler and I were able to connect regarding my initial questions. I'm meeting with my editor tomorrow to talk about this story, so I'll have a better sense of what information I still need following that meeting.

Best,  
Veronica

On Mon, May 3, 2021 at 5:56 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey there – I wanted to follow up on this and also make sure you saw today's news:

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-approves-solar-energy-project-california-desert>

We have another announcement coming up, please let me know if we can connect!

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A

**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 6:50 PM

**To:** [veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)

**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Story on renewable energy development

Veronica,

I'm so sorry to pipe in late on a Friday night but I'm digging out of my inbox and realizing that you have an outstanding request to the Bureau of Land Management that I believe Tyler Cherry was in contact with you on. Tyler is out of the office for a few days so I am trying to make sure I'm covering my bases.

Did you and Tyler speak about you connecting with additional members of our staff? I know you had some specific questions for BLM but would love the opportunity to put a member of our leadership on the phone with you on background to talk through the Biden-Harris Administration's goals and how we at Interior are working to accelerate renewable energy development and create new clean energy jobs.

Have we missed the boat there or would it be possible to connect on Monday? Thanks so much and again apologies.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Story on renewable energy development  
**Date:** Monday, May 3, 2021 5:56:07 PM

---

Hey there – I wanted to follow up on this and also make sure you saw today's news:  
<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-approves-solar-energy-project-california-desert>

We have another announcement coming up, please let me know if we can connect!

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 6:50 PM  
**To:** [veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Story on renewable energy development

Veronica,

I'm so sorry to pipe in late on a Friday night but I'm digging out of my inbox and realizing that you have an outstanding request to the Bureau of Land Management that I believe Tyler Cherry was in contact with you on. Tyler is out of the office for a few days so I am trying to make sure I'm covering my bases.

Did you and Tyler speak about you connecting with additional members of our staff? I know you had some specific questions for BLM but would love the opportunity to put a member of our leadership on the phone with you on background to talk through the Biden-Harris Administration's goals and how we at Interior are working to accelerate renewable energy development and create new clean energy jobs.

Have we missed the boat there or would it be possible to connect on Monday? Thanks so much and again apologies.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)





**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#); [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Haaland quote under embargo?  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 3:30:59 PM

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Hi, guys,  
I've got my "Haaland confirmed" story ready to post when the vote comes this evening. Will she have a statement at that time? Cld you send on embargo, just so we can have it in the story right away? It will not be used until after the confirmation vote is done.

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I'll be in the 30x30 call  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 1:08:55 PM

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Please send details --  
Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] my question to the Secretary  
**Date:** Friday, April 2, 2021 12:14:31 PM

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I don't think I can resolve my audio. Could you ask the Secretary - where do things stand on reviewing the pause on new drilling and fracking leases on public lands? What will be the concrete next steps on this? Should we expect a long-term moratorium to be in place later this year?

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Out of office Re: ONRR Valuation Rule  
**Date:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 10:26:38 AM

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I'll be on vacation until Monday, Feb. 15, and will respond to your message when I return. For environmental policy related news, please reach out to Lisa Friedman at [lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com).

Thanks,  
Coral

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#); [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] pen & pad w. Haaland  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 10:15:57 AM

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I'll be there - please send details

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Deb Haaland opening remarks  
**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2021 1:19:05 PM

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thank you!

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 1:05 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi there –

Attached please find a copy of Congresswoman Deb Haaland's opening remarks for her confirmation hearing tomorrow morning. The remarks are not embargoed.

Thanks,

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times  
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Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport



**From:** [Mark Walker](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Freedmen Q  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 2:45:42 PM

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Hi Tyler, thank you for the response. Could you give me a quick call? 605-809-7369.

On Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 2:31 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Mark,

My colleague Bryan Newland passed along your email.

I'd check in with the relevant Tribes; the Department of the Interior does not keep that information. The Tribes are in the best position to share how they count Freedmen within their enrollment information.

Thanks, let me know if you need anything else!

Tyler Cherry  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(c) [202-549-2988](tel:202-549-2988)

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--

Mark Walker



Washington Bureau  
202 862 0414 office  
605 809 7369 mobile  
[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: INVITE: Pen and Pad Briefing with Secretary Haaland  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 1:48:59 PM

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Thanks, I'll be there. Can you offer guidance on embargo on the topic of her remarks? Do you plan/expect to make news?

On Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 12:59 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

***Off the record/for planning purposes only:***

Hi there -

You are invited to a virtual pen and pad briefing with Secretary Deb Haaland tomorrow, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 2:00 PM ET. There will be opportunity for Q&A.

To ensure everyone can meaningfully engage with the Secretary, we are only able to accommodate one reporter per outlet. Please let us know whether you plan to attend or cannot make it. The Zoom link will be sent upon RSVP.

While the briefing will be on the record, any recording should be for your reporting but not for any broadcast purposes. By accepting this invitation, you agree to these ground rules.

Please reach out with any questions. Thank you!

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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|

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Cc:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Pen and pad briefing with Sec. Haaland  
**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2021 1:27:02 PM

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Looking forward to it - sad it's not in person but hoping that can happen later this year.

On Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 1:21 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY/OFF THE RECORD:**

Hi there –

As a follow up, you are invited to a virtual pen and pad briefing with Secretary Haaland this Wednesday, March 24, from 9:30-10:00 am Eastern. The Zoom registration information is below - we ask that you please not share this link with anyone else, as it is unique to you. Please let us know if you cannot make it and someone else from your newsroom will be joining instead.

While the briefing will be on the record, any recording should be for your reporting but not for any broadcast purposes.

[https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1604926858?  
pwd=VXlxU01tYml6L3BNbzg3ZFVjcGMydz09](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1604926858?pwd=VXlxU01tYml6L3BNbzg3ZFVjcGMydz09)

Meeting ID: 160 492 6858

Passcode: interior

Thanks so much! Please reach out with any questions ahead of the meeting. Secretary Haaland is looking forward to meeting you all.

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

1627 I St. NW, Suite 700

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[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)

O 202-862-0359

C 703-618-0645

Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Veronica Penney](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Renewable story  
**Date:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 12:36:05 PM

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Hi Tyler,

Thank you again for your help routing my inquiries. Here are my initial questions:

1. Is the Department of the Interior's current renewable energy goal to build 25 gigawatts of power by 2025?
  2. Does this [project list](#) from the [BLM Solar Energy](#) page include all the solar energy projects built on DOI land?
  3. Does DOI/ BLM publish data on how many projects have applied for permits? I'm trying to get a sense of how much interest developers have in building on public land.
  4. According to the Solar PEIS: "The final plan identified 17 Solar Energy Zones, covering 285,000 acres in six states (California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah). Since they were established in 2012, two California and Arizona have each identified additional zones. If fully built out, projects in the designated areas could produce as much as **27,000 MW of solar energy**, enough to power approximately 8 million homes. The program also keeps the door open, on a case-by-case basis, for the possibility of carefully sited solar projects outside Solar Energy Zones on about 19 million acres in 'variance' areas."
- What is the significance of a Solar Energy Zone? Is the approval process for projects streamlined in those areas? And is there a plan to expand or adjust those zones to encourage more solar energy (and wind development, for areas identified as having wind resources)?

Best,  
Veronica

On Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 10:50 AM Veronica Penney <[veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)> wrote:

Hi Tyler,

Thank you for getting back to me. Do you have some time to talk this morning? You can reach me at (b) (6)

Best,

Veronica

On Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 6:05 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Veronica,

My colleague passed along your inquiry on renewables. Happy to chat to hear more about what you're looking for – let me know when's best. Thanks

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#); [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Thank you so much for doing!  
**Date:** Friday, April 2, 2021 12:46:04 PM

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Of course understand that you couldn't get to my second Q (even though I am sure she would have loved it) - but I am intrigued by the idea of how you infuse/elevate Native issues throughout all the department and not just Indian affairs. Is it really doable and could it last after her tenure?... If there are specific concrete examples of that happening now I'm interested.

In other news, I get my (b) (6) so will be down to travel late May early June and would be very interested in doing a trip w her, particularly to NM. Also wondering if there will be trips in summer focused on water management/Bureau of Rec or wildfire management.

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport



**From:** [Erin Schaff](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Thank you  
**Date:** Sunday, March 21, 2021 10:06:11 AM

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Hey Tyler,

A belated thank you for connecting me with NPS folks, ultimately it did lead to the local park service calling me with good advice on how to fly over the beach without being on NPS managed land. Here's the article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/14/climate/outer-banks-tax-climate-change.html#click=https://t.co/3SdfoPXHxn>

Hope we get a chance to work together more in the future!

All the best,  
Erin

--

--

Erin Schaff  
Photographer  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
845-625-4398

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Zoom link for Haaland pen and pad says it's invalid  
**Date:** Friday, April 2, 2021 12:01:28 PM

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Could you send a different one, or even just a phone number?  
tks!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Tomorrow's wind announcement  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 4:25:05 PM

---

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Cld you send background/details under embargo?

Tks!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#); [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] v. important on number of wind turbines!!  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:28:33 PM

---

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Your press release says the RoD "grants Vineyard Wind final federal approval to install 84 or fewer turbines".

When I look in the RoD it says "The proposed Project will consist of up to 100 WTGs"

And elsewhere it looks like it's 62 turbines. Can you please clarify ASAP?

tk's!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Erin Schaff](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] climate change story + request for drone photo approval  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 12:31:23 PM

---

Hey Tyler,

Is there any exception that can be made here, I'm just looking to fly over an empty beach...

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

**From:** De Leon, Marco I <[Marco\\_DeLeon@nps.gov](mailto:Marco_DeLeon@nps.gov)>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 12:20 PM  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] climate change story + request for drone photo approval  
**To:** Erin Schaff <[erin.schaff@nytimes.com](mailto:erin.schaff@nytimes.com)>, Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>

Hi Erin,

Thank you for your interest in the National Park Service, and for checking our rules and regulations. The launching, landing, or operation of unmanned aircraft or drones is prohibited on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service. Drones have the potential to cause unacceptable impacts such as harming visitors, interfering with rescue operations, causing excessive noise, impacting viewsheds, and disturbing wildlife. Violation of the ban is a misdemeanor with the maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Sincerely,  
Marco

--

Marco De Leon  
Chief of Public Affairs  
National Park Service  
(303) 242-1682

---

**From:** Erin Schaff <[erin.schaff@nytimes.com](mailto:erin.schaff@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 5, 2021 12:50 PM  
**To:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>; De Leon, Marco I <[Marco\\_DeLeon@nps.gov](mailto:Marco_DeLeon@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] climate change story + request for drone photo approval

Hi Jenny and Marco,

Thank you for your help! Let me know if there's any additional information I can provide that would be helpful.

All the best,  
Erin

--

Erin Schaff  
Photographer  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
845-625-4398

On Fri, Mar 5, 2021 at 2:36 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Erin, connecting you with my colleagues in National Park Service who can help you on this.

Thanks Jenny and Marco!

Tyler Cherry  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Erin Schaff <[erin.schaff@nytimes.com](mailto:erin.schaff@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 5, 2021 10:53 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] climate change story + request for drone photo approval

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hey Tyler,

I'm working on a story about climate change and coastal beach erosion in the outer banks and looking to get approval for a small drone flight over a beach in Avon, NC for photos. I spoke with the local NPS permitting office for the outer banks and they referenced order no. 3379 "Temporary Cessation of Non-Emergency Unmanned Aircraft Systems Fleet Operations" from former Secretary Bernhardt and said I wouldn't be able to get approval for a flight. I wanted to check if that cessation actually applies to drones outside of the ones owned by interior and see if I could get a waiver for a flight? I would be flying over an empty beach and ensuring not to disrupt any people or wildlife. Looking to do the flight next week if possible.

All the best,

Erin

--

Erin Schaff

Photographer

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

845-625-4398

--

--

Erin Schaff

Photographer

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

845-625-4398

**From:** [Erin Schaff](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] climate change story + request for drone photo approval  
**Date:** Friday, March 5, 2021 2:50:00 PM

---

Thank you!

--

Erin Schaff  
Photographer  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
845-625-4398

On Fri, Mar 5, 2021 at 2:36 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Erin, connecting you with my colleagues in National Park Service who can help you on this.

Thanks Jenny and Marco!

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Erin Schaff <[erin.schaff@nytimes.com](mailto:erin.schaff@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 5, 2021 10:53 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] climate change story + request for drone photo approval

---

---



This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hey Tyler,

I'm working on a story about climate change and coastal beach erosion in the outer banks and looking to get approval for a small drone flight over a beach in Avon, NC for photos. I spoke with the local NPS permitting office for the outer banks and they referenced order no. 3379 "Temporary Cessation of Non-Emergency Unmanned Aircraft Systems Fleet Operations" from former Secretary Bernhardt and said I wouldn't be able to get approval for a flight. I wanted to check if that cessation actually applies to drones outside of the ones owned by interior and see if I could get a waiver for a flight? I would be flying over an empty beach and ensuring not to disrupt any people or wildlife. Looking to do the flight next week if possible.

All the best,

Erin

--

Erin Schaff

Photographer

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

845-625-4398

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] comment request on Stone-Manning  
**Date:** Monday, July 19, 2021 8:39:10 AM

---

Ty very much  
Lisa

On Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 8:35 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

The Interior Department stands by Tracy's statements and written submissions. Thanks

---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2021 8:07 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comment request on Stone-Manning

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hi there. Hoping you can respond to these questions and also send me a general quote about whether Secretary Haaland continues to stand behind Ms. Stone-Manning.

+ Can you comment on the new allegations made by the former Forest Service investigator Michael Merkeley that Ms. Stone-Manning was uncooperative when the agency first investigated the tree-spiking incident and only agreed to share information after she was granted immunity.

+ Can you speak to why Ms. Stone-Manning did not report the incident to authorities between the time it was being investigated and when she was granted immunity to testify?

+ One of the men convicted in the case, Mr. Blount, now says Ms. Manning was aware of the tree-spiking plan for several months prior to when it occurred. Can you respond to that allegation?

Thanks so much. My deadline is end of day. Best

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] did I drop off the press list?  
**Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 5:22:31 PM

---

Hey Tyler thank you so much! Let's catch up soon when we have a moment to catch a breath.  
Best  
Lisa

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 5:20 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi there, thanks for reaching out! Making sure you saw this fact sheet from DOI that just went out. We will make sure you're on the press list! Sorry about that

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/fact-sheet-interior-department-welcomes-day-one-executive-orders-restore-public-lands>

As noted in the release, the Secretarial Order elevates review of all agency decisions. The Order does not impact existing ongoing operations under valid leases and does not preclude the issuance of leases, permits and other authorizations by those specified in the Order.

Thanks so much,

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 4:58 PM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] did I drop off the press list?

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

I didn't receive anything about the new temporary moratorium -- did that come from your shop or the WH?

Regardless if you can make sure I'm still on the press list that would be super. Ty!

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Christopher Flavelle](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Following up -- NYT tribal nations/climate risks story  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 1:42:06 PM

---

Thanks Tyler. Separately from my request to speak with the secretary, do you want to offer any other examples of new policies the department is pursuing to mitigate the climate risks facing tribal nations?

On Tue, May 11, 2021 at 12:10 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Chris,

Appreciate the follow-up. Nothing to add from us beyond what we've already sent over.

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:16 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Following up -- NYT tribal nations/climate risks story

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hi Tyler. The story that you and I spoke about earlier this year was delayed; it's now

approaching the finish line, and I want to try one more time to get Secretary Haaland on the phone to talk about her actions and plans for addressing the risks that climate change poses to tribal nations.

The current draft of the story notes that despite being the first Native American secretary of the interior, representing an administration that has made climate change one of its core issues, her office declined to make her available to comment; it also quotes from the statement you provided, which didn't directly address the issues in the story. I'd rather be able to tell readers what she's doing on these issues.

Last time I asked that, you said she was unavailable because she was traveling. Does she have any availability this week or next?

Best,  
Chris

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

**From:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Interior press call today at 10:30am  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 4:43:54 PM

---

Hi again. I wrote this up for ourDC briefing

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/04/27/us/biden-news-today/interior-dept-streamlines-process-for-native-american-tribes-to-acquire-off-reservation-lands>

On Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 3:39 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Elizabeth –

We won't be able to connect for any interviews on this, but I am awaiting the recording and transcript from today's press call and am happy to send your way once I have. Will hopefully go a long way in helping give some context to today's

announcement.



Thank you!

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 11:28 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>; Cherry, Tyler A  
<[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Interior press call today at 10:30am



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Hi Tyler!

As Melissa knows I am working on a profile of Secy Haaland and her efforts on this front. Can you please send me these materials and add me to the mailing list?many thanks!

Elizabeth Williamson

202-674-2463

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

From: **Cherry, Tyler A** <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>

Date: Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 8:59 AM

Subject: Interior press call today at 10:30am

To: Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>



**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY:**

Hi there –

The Department of the Interior is taking several steps today to honor our nation-to-nation relationship with Tribes and uphold our trust and treaty responsibilities to them. Interior Department officials

will host a press call to walk through the announcement at 10:30 AM ET. **The call will be on background and embargoed until 12pm ET.** If you are receiving this email, embargoed materials will be sent at 10:15am. There will be time for Q&A on the call.

The conference dial-in is: (b) (5) ; Passcode (b) (5) .

Thanks!

Tyler Cherry



Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

---

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Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell



**From:** [Christopher Flavelle](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 4:14:00 PM

---

Great, thanks Melissa.

On Wed, May 12, 2021 at 3:23 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Chris – if we have something we are able to share in advance, we will make sure you are on the list

---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 11:07 AM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Is the department releasing an embargoed version of the strategy?

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

**From:** U.S. Department of the Interior <[info@updates.interior.gov](mailto:info@updates.interior.gov)>  
**Date:** Wed, May 12, 2021 at 11:04 AM  
**Subject:** Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness  
**To:** <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>



Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness

**WASHINGTON** — Tomorrow, May 13, 2021, at 12:00 PM ET, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and wildland fire experts will hold a media availability to outline the administration's wildland fire management goals, including working with State, Tribal and local partners to ensure an all-of-government response to wildland fire and to promote climate resiliency across landscapes and communities.

**WHAT:** Press call to discuss Interior and Agriculture Departments' shared vision for wildland fire preparedness and response.

**WHO:**

- Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland
- Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
- Jeff Rupert, Director of Interior's Office of Wildland Fire
- Patty Grantham, Acting Director, Fire and Aviation Management, USDA Forest Service

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 12:00 PM ET

**DIAL-IN:** Credentialed members of the media may join the call by dialing 800-369-3358; passcode "FIREFIGHTER"

###

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### About the U.S. Department of Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.





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This email was sent to [christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com) by: U.S. Department of the Interior · 1849 C Street, N.W. · Washington DC 20240 · 202-208-3100



--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: [@cflav](#)

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: [@cflav](#)



**From:** [Christopher Flavelle](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Cc:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Heads up -- NYT story on Native Americans/climate change  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 3:28:11 PM

---

Thanks for getting back to me. If you want to talk by phone I can walk you through the article.

On Mon, Mar 15, 2021 at 3:26 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Chris. Acknowledging receipt. Any additional info on the story and what specifically you're looking for would be helpful as we track this on our end.

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 1:38 PM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Heads up -- NYT story on Native Americans/climate change

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hi Tyler. I've been working on a story about the disproportionate effects of climate change on tribal nations, and also the ways that federal policy has exacerbated those disproportionate effects.

I'd like the story to also mention the Biden administration's plans to address the effects of climate change on Native Americans, including whatever plans Interior may have. Given that Ms. Haaland seems likely to be confirmed today, does your office want to make anyone available for an interview about the policy plans of the department and/or the incoming secretary?

I don't have a hard deadline; I'm trying to wrap up the story this month. I'd be happy to give you more information about it if it's helpful.

Best,  
Chris

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

**From:** [Christopher Flavelle](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Hi Tyler -- checking on climate corps plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 1:05:43 PM

---

Thanks Tyler. So, not coming this week? Just for my own planning purposes.

On Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 1:03 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

On background from Interior spox – “Interior is on track to deliver the report to the National Climate Task Force and looks forward to sharing information with the public in the coming weeks.”

Will let you know if I have more to add. Thanks Chris

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 10:32 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hi Tyler -- checking on climate corps plan

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

I hope you're well. The president's Jan. 27 executive order directed the Interior Dept to

submit to the Climate Task Force, within 90 days, a strategy "for creating a Civilian Climate Corps Initiative."

I believe today is 90 days after Jan. 27 -- can you tell me if the department has submitted that strategy to the task force? If so, can you share a copy? If not, do you know when it's supposed to be submitted?

Best,  
Chris

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] my question to the Secretary  
**Date:** Friday, April 2, 2021 12:34:55 PM

---

If possible one more! She talked about incorporating Indian issues into all offices and and bureaus of the agency, not just Indian affairs. What would be examples of that - how could we see the missions of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, USGS, and other such agencies take into account Native issues?

On Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 12:14 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Will do

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 2, 2021 12:13:38 PM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] my question to the Secretary

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

I don't think I can resolve my audio. Could you ask the Secretary - where do things stand on reviewing the pause on new drilling and fracking leases on public lands? What will be the concrete next steps on this? Should we expect a long-term moratorium to be in place later this year?

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006

[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)

O 202-862-0359

C 703-618-0645

Twitter @CoralMDavenport

--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

1627 I St. NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20006

[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)

O 202-862-0359

C 703-618-0645

Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] new order halting drilling on public lands  
**Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 5:00:42 PM

---

Hi, Tyler -

I did not receive the press release, so please do make sure I'm on the list.

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:26 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi there, thanks for reaching out! Making sure you saw this fact sheet from DOI that just went out (let me know if you're not on the press list so we can get you added back on).

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/fact-sheet-interior-department-welcomes-day-one-executive-orders-restore-public-lands>

As noted in the release, the Secretarial Order elevates review of all agency decisions. The Order does not impact existing ongoing operations under valid leases and does not preclude the issuance of leases, permits and other authorizations by those specified in the Order.

Thanks so much,

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 1:55 PM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] new order halting drilling on public lands

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can you guys send press release on this?

tk!

--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

1627 I St. NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20006

[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)

O 202-862-0359

C 703-618-0645

Twitter @CoralMDavenport

--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

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Washington, DC 20006

[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)

O 202-862-0359

C 703-618-0645

Twitter @CoralMDavenport



**From:** [Mark Walker](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] New York Times media inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 9:22:10 AM

---

Thank you for your response.

My deadline for the piece is the middle of next week for the Prairie Island Community story.

As it relates to the DOI employees, here are a few questions I have:

- Can you confirm that 80 percent of the DOI employees who were infected with the virus were Bureau of Indian Affairs employees?
- What percentage of these employees were Native American?
- What percentage of those employees lost their lives to the virus?
- What types of jobs were these employees doing?
- Where were they located?
- What tribal communities did they work in?
- Why were these employees so vulnerable to the virus?

On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 4:22 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Mark,

Thanks for reaching out. Checking on the first question with my teams. Do you have a deadline for that story?

And let me know any specific questions you have about DOI employees. Happy to do my best to address.

Thanks,

Tyler Cherry  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Mark Walker <[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 2:38 PM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New York Times media inquiry

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Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Mark Walker and I'm a reporter for The New York Times.

I'm writing a story and looking into another.

The story I'm currently writing is an investigative piece on the issues taking place at the Prairie Island Indian Community in Minnesota with the nuclear waste and flooding from a nearby dam.

The tribal chairwoman says they are trying to get land they purchased placed into trust to preserve the future of the community.

She says Ms. Haaland is aware of this issue and looking into it to see what can be done.

Would it be possible to speak with the Secretary or get a statement about issues the tribe is facing and any efforts that are underway to address it?

Also, I wanted to follow up with someone about a statement the Secretary made about 80 percent of the Interior federal employees who died from covid being employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Is there someone I can speak with this about today?

Feel free to call me if you have any questions, my number is 605-809-7369.

Best,

Mark

--

Mark Walker



Washington Bureau

202 862 0414 office

605 809 7369 mobile

[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

--

Mark Walker



Washington Bureau

202 862 0414 office

605 809 7369 mobile

[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Christopher Flavelle](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] NYT request -- Civilian Climate Corps  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 4:45:50 PM

---

Thanks but maybe my email was unclear. I'm not asking for an update -- I'm asking if the strategy has been completed.

I'm asking because Coral, Lisa, Brad and I are working on a story about the departure of federal climate experts during the Trump administration, and how that depletion of personnel with climate expertise has made it challenging for the Biden administration to execute its climate agenda.

One of the indications of that challenge is that a significant number of climate deliverables called for in the president's Jan. 27 EO have missed their deadlines. By not answering my question about whether the CCC strategy is done, you're giving the impression that it is not. If that's right, can you tell me why it hasn't been completed?

On Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 3:55 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Chris – we don't have an update for you on this. Thanks

---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2021 1:36 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>; Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NYT request -- Civilian Climate Corps

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Hi Melissa and Tyler. Can you tell me if Interior has completed the Civilian Climate Corps strategy called for in Sec. 215 of EO 14008? I don't see it on the department's website.

Thanks,  
Chris

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] NYT request (not urgent, for Tuesday)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:04:02 PM

---

Yes - pardon me, I guess 'guidances' is more EPA lingo. Secretarial Orders and also solicitor general opinions. Ty!

Lisa

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 12:55 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

What are you considering “guidance?” Secretarial Orders?

---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2021 10:48 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NYT request (not urgent, for Tuesday)

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Hi folks. I know today's a holiday and this isn't urgent But I wanted to get the request in front of you so someone to deal with it early Tuesday.

I have a story running Wednesday on all of the guidances that the Trump administration left behind (like reinstating the use of some genetically engineered crops inside national wildlife refuges and a forest service guidance increasing the use of categorical exclusions under NEPA).

Can you tell me: are the guidances something that the Biden administration has been looking at in addition to regulations intended for repeal and/or strengthening? Do you have a sense of just how damaging to be Biden agenda some of these guidance is at Interior are? Are there any particular challenges in dealing with them or can they be easily rescinded! Plans

for doing that?

Thanks for anything you can get me on this tomorrow afternoon. I'm at 202-251-2083 if you want to chat or ask any questions on this.

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] NYT request  
**Date:** Friday, February 19, 2021 7:26:48 PM

---

Gotcha will check there ty

On Fri, Feb 19, 2021 at 7:25 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Off the record, yes I believe today is the deadline - I think whether they become public is up to OMB - would check there but will also keep you updated if anything changes

Have a great weekend

Tyler Cherry



Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) [202-549-2988](tel:202-549-2988)

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---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2021 4:02 PM

**To:** Cherry, Tyler A

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NYT request

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Hey Tyler! Do I understand correctly that by today the agencies will have to give omb lists of the regs they intend to revise this year, right? Any idea if these are public yet or if there's anything you can give me from DOI?

Ty!

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times  
(202) 862-0306 office  
(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Veronica Penney](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Renewable story  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:43:01 AM

---

Great, thanks again Tyler!

On Tue, May 25, 2021 at 9:57 AM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey there – here are some answers to your questions below. Let me know if you need anything else. Thanks!

**Q1. Does this [project list](#) from the [BLM Solar Energy](#) page include all the solar energy projects built on DOI land?**

*"The [project list](#) is updated, and includes all solar energy projects on Interior land."*

**Q2. Does DOI/ BLM publish data on how many projects have applied for permits? I'm trying to get a sense of how much interest developers have in building on public land.**

*"Solar Energy project reports are available [here](#), and Wind Energy project reports are available [here](#)."*

**Q3(a & b). According to the Solar PEIS: "The final plan identified 17 Solar Energy Zones, covering 285,000 acres in six states (California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah). Since they were established in 2012, two California and Arizona have each identified additional zones. If fully built out, projects in the designated areas could produce as much as 27,000 MW of solar energy, enough to power approximately 8 million homes. The program also keeps the door open, on a case-by-case basis, for the possibility of carefully sited solar projects outside Solar Energy Zones on about 19 million acres in 'variance' areas." What is the significance of a Solar Energy Zone? Is the approval process for projects streamlined in those areas?**

*"Established designated leasing areas (which include Solar Energy Zones) are agency-preferred locations determined through programmatic environmental review for solar development where BLM can provide expedited site-control via a lease. These areas have standardized regulatory requirements for performance and reclamation bonding to streamline the project-level bonding process."*

**Q3(c) ... And is there a plan to expand or adjust those zones to encourage more solar energy (and wind development, for areas identified as having wind resources)?**

*"BLM is assessing potential expansion of designated leasing areas based on updated information and expected demand. To learn more about how the Department of the Interior is developing a robust and sustainable clean energy future, visit [here](#)."*

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

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---

**From:** Cherry, Tyler A  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Veronica Penney <[veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Renewable story

Thanks! Will work on these with my teams.

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

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**From:** Veronica Penney <[veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Renewable story

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Hi Tyler,

Thank you again for your help routing my inquiries. Here are my initial questions:

1. Is the Department of the Interior's current renewable energy goal to build 25 gigawatts of power by 2025?
  2. Does this [project list](#) from the [BLM Solar Energy](#) page include all the solar energy projects built on DOI land?
  3. Does DOI/ BLM publish data on how many projects have applied for permits? I'm trying to get a sense of how much interest developers have in building on public land.
  4. According to the Solar PEIS: "The final plan identified 17 Solar Energy Zones, covering 285,000 acres in six states (California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah). Since they were established in 2012, two California and Arizona have each identified additional zones. If fully built out, projects in the designated areas could produce as much as **27,000 MW of solar energy**, enough to power approximately 8 million homes. The program also keeps the door open, on a case-by-case basis, for the possibility of carefully sited solar projects outside Solar Energy Zones on about 19 million acres in 'variance' areas."
- What is the significance of a Solar Energy Zone? Is the approval process for projects streamlined in those areas? And is there a plan to expand or adjust those zones to encourage more solar energy (and wind development, for areas identified as having wind resources)?

Best,

Veronica

On Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 10:50 AM Veronica Penney <[veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)> wrote:

Hi Tyler,

Thank you for getting back to me. Do you have some time to talk this morning? You can reach me at (b) (6)

Best,

Veronica

On Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 6:05 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Veronica,

My colleague passed along your inquiry on renewables. Happy to chat to hear more about what you're looking for – let me know when's best. Thanks

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

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**From:** [Veronica Penney](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Cc:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#); [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Story on renewable energy development  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:34:04 AM

---

Hi Tyler,

Thursday at 3 p.m. Eastern would be great.

Thank you,  
Veronica

On Mon, May 10, 2021 at 5:53 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Veronica,

How does Thursday 3pm Eastern sound for a 20 minute background chat? I'll send through a calendar invite with a dial-in if that works. Thanks

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

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---

**From:** Veronica Penney <[veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:06 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Story on renewable energy development

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Hi Melissa,

Thank you for following up. Tyler and I were able to connect regarding my initial questions. I'm meeting with my editor tomorrow to talk about this story, so I'll have a better sense of what information I still need following that meeting.

Best,

Veronica

On Mon, May 3, 2021 at 5:56 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey there – I wanted to follow up on this and also make sure you saw today's news: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-approves-solar-energy-project-california-desert>

We have another announcement coming up, please let me know if we can connect!

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 6:50 PM  
**To:** [veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Story on renewable energy development

Veronica,

I'm so sorry to pipe in late on a Friday night but I'm digging out of my inbox and

realizing that you have an outstanding request to the Bureau of Land Management that I believe Tyler Cherry was in contact with you on. Tyler is out of the office for a few days so I am trying to make sure I'm covering my bases.

Did you and Tyler speak about you connecting with additional members of our staff? I know you had some specific questions for BLM but would love the opportunity to put a member of our leadership on the phone with you on background to talk through the Biden-Harris Administration's goals and how we at Interior are working to accelerate renewable energy development and create new clean energy jobs.

Have we missed the boat there or would it be possible to connect on Monday? Thanks so much and again apologies.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)

**From:** [Michael Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re:  
**Date:** Monday, August 16, 2021 7:15:42 PM

---

Terrific. Thanks

On Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 6:33 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey Mike – sorry for the delay, I’ve been on the road. I will check in on these

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

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---

**From:** Michael Schmidt <[schmidtm@nytimes.com](mailto:schmidtm@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 4:23 PM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re:

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hey just circling back with you on this. many thanks

On Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 1:49 PM Michael Schmidt <[schmidtm@nytimes.com](mailto:schmidtm@nytimes.com)> wrote:

Tyler: Below are three questions I have for the Department of Interior. Many thanks,

Mike Schmidt

In May 2017, the Trump White House received three furs that, based on their description by the State Department in an August 2017 FOIA [<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3986197-TrumpSaudi-Gifts>], are Appendix I protected under the Endangered Species Act. (From the list: 4. Orange and gold wool robe lined with cheetah fur 5. Blue and silver wool robe lined with white tiger fur 36. Purple wool robe with white tiger fur lining). Under typical gifts protocol, gifts that are covered by the Endangered Species Act are supposed to be sent by the accepting agency [in this case the Trump White House] to the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service for proper disposal. Based on your previous response, Fish and Wildlife Service never received the fur. I have since learned from the GSA that it received the furs from the Trump White House on Jan. 19, 2021. As of mid-July, Fish and Wildlife Service had not received these furs, meaning that they have been unaccounted for for three plus years. Three questions:

1. It's my understanding that to import and be in possession of Endangered Species Act protected furs you need a license from Fish and Wildlife Service. Was a license ever given for the three furs in question?
2. In the Department of Interior's response to me in July, it said that it did not have the furs in question or know anything about them. Has the department since learned anything about the furs?
3. Does the Department of Interior and Fish and Wildlife Service have any concerns about how these furs were handled? It's the job of Fish and Wildlife Service and the Justice Department to enforce the Endangered Species Act. Yet, these protected furs were given to a White House and went unaccounted for for more than three years. Is that how the system is supposed to work?

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 5:35:27 PM

---

Thank you! I probably will follow up with a couple more questions yes so ty!

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 5:08 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Attaching recording – we should have a transcript tomorrow! Let me know how else we can be helpful on the piece. Thanks Lisa

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

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**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 5:04 PM

**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request

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Hey Tyler - we are looking at a larger story for Thursday or Friday on what's ahead for offshore wind. Are you able to share a recording or transcript of today's call by chance?



Ty

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times  
(202) 862-0306 office  
(202) 251-2083 cell

mandate to act,” **added Secretary Haaland.** “With the vast experience, talent, and ingenuity of our public servants at the Department of the Interior, I’m optimistic about what we can accomplish together to care for our natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.”

Previous Orders that were revoked include:

- [SO 3348 – “Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium”](#) (March 29, 2017)
- [SO 3349 – “American Energy Independence”](#) (March 29, 2017)
- [SO 3350 – “America-First Offshore Energy Strategy”](#) (May 1, 2017)
- [SO 3351 – “Strengthening the Department of the Interior's Energy Portfolio”](#) (May 1, 2017);
- [SO 3352 – “National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska”](#) (May 31, 2017)
- [SO 3354 – “Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program”](#) (Jul. 6, 2017)
- [SO 3355 - Streamlining National Environmental Policy Reviews and Implementation of Executive Order 13807, “Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects”](#) (Aug. 31, 2017)
- [SO 3358 – “Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting”](#) (Oct. 25, 2017)
- [SO 3360 – “Rescinding Authorities Inconsistent with Secretary's Order 3349, “American Energy Independence”](#) (Dec. 22, 2017)
- [SO 3380 – “Public Notice of the Costs Associated with Developing Department of the Interior Publications and Similar Documents”](#) (Mar. 10, 2020)
- [SO 3385 – “Enforcement Priorities”](#) (Sep. 14, 2020)
- [SO 3389 – “Coordinating and Clarifying National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Reviews”](#) (Dec. 22, 2020)

In addition, the Solicitor’s office issued a withdrawal of M-37062, an opinion that concluded that the Interior Secretary must promulgate a National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program consisting of a 5-year lease schedule with at least two lease sales during the five year plan. This withdrawal will allow the agency to evaluate its obligations under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA).

###

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 10:00 AM

**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A  
<[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Yes ty!

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opening attachments, or responding.**

I have no idea where my editors are this morning but I'm sure they'll say yes. Can you send along whatever you have? Especially if you can be specific about what Trump era orders this would revoke that would be great.

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times  
(202) 862-0306 office  
(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Michael Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 5:50:44 PM

---

if you get a minute give me a shout this evening (b) (6)

On Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 12:15 PM Michael Schmidt <[schmidtm@nytimes.com](mailto:schmidtm@nytimes.com)> wrote:  
Ok thanks

On Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 11:49 AM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey Mike,

Appreciate the call yesterday – we unfortunately won't be able to make an interview happen on this issue. Thanks

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

*Follow us at [@USInteriorPress](#) and sign up [here](#) for updates from Interior.*

---

**From:** Michael Schmidt <[schmidtm@nytimes.com](mailto:schmidtm@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 3:46 PM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

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tyler: if you get a minute this afternoon give me a shout. (b) (6). many thanks

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Patel, Vedant R. EOP/WHO](#); [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A federal judge in Louisiana has blocked the administration's suspension of oil and gas leases  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 6:44:57 PM

---

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Can you guys send comment?

Also, if you have the ruling itself, can you send?  
tks!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport



**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bears Ears  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:43:23 AM

---

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Can you offer guidance on announcement/timing?  
tks!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] can you please give a call?  
**Date:** Monday, August 16, 2021 5:46:28 PM

---

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I'm trying to understand what exactly is new - the decision already required the administration to resume the leasing. We will not do a story about the appeal - I'm just trying to understand what, beyond the appeal, is substantively new. 703-618-0645

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Chatting with Dave Applegate  
**Date:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 12:22:59 PM

---

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Hey, there - we are working on a story about how agencies where scientists left during the past administration are working on recovering and building back capacity. Would love to speak w. Dave Applegate at USGS about this. Could he chat today or tomorrow?

Cheers,

cd

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
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Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] checking back in  
**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2021 11:41:37 AM

---

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Hey, there - I think we'd like to move forward quickly on our story about what agencies are finding about new examples of the ways in which science was disregarded in the previous administration. Would you be able to send along or connect me to someone who can talk about the examples you mentioned -- I think you said there were two specific examples of science being disregarded on ESA listings, which have not been reported.

Cheers,  
Coral

--

Coral Davenport  
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**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Coal leasing announcement?  
**Date:** Monday, August 16, 2021 2:43:27 PM

---

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Do you have something coming on this? Can you share on embargo? --

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

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Washington Bureau

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O 202-862-0359

C 703-618-0645

Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comment on Alaska judge ruling on Willow?  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:32:58 PM

---

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--

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**From:** [Mark Walker](#)  
**To:** [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Pueblo of Acoma  
**Date:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:34:43 PM

---

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good afternoon,  
I hope this email finds you well.  
My name is Mark Walker and I'm a reporter for The New York Times.  
Secretary Haaland criticized I.H.S. after they reduced services at the Pueblo of Acoma hospital.  
Today, the tribe and I.H.S. reached an agreement to restore emergency and in-patient services.  
I'm writing a story to run in tomorrow's paper.  
Would it be possible to get a comment about the agreement reached between Acome and I.H.S.?  
Best,  
Mark

--

Mark Walker  
  
Washington Bureau  
202 862 0414 office  
605 809 7369 mobile  
[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] drilling report coming this week?  
**Date:** Monday, August 2, 2021 4:21:54 PM

---

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Or anything else, for guidance?

--

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**From:** [Henry Fountain](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] from a NY Times reporter re seismic permit in ANWR  
**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2021 11:56:41 AM

---

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hi Melissa,  
Lisa Friedman forwarded me your email to her about the proposal by KIC for a seismic permit in ANWR. (I've been covering the ANWR saga.)  
Do you have a moment to talk on the phone? I'm just wondering about next steps, etc.  
Let me know.  
Cheers  
Henry

Henry Fountain  
Climate reporter, [The New York Times](#)  
New Mexico, USA  
914.584.0371 [fountain@nytimes.com](mailto:fountain@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Michael Shear](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] fun story  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 2:30:09 PM

---

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Hey Melissa

Mike Shear here. I'm working on a fun story about the use of language by the government. If you have a minute, could you give me a holler?

thank

mike

--

Michael D. Shear  
White House Correspondent  
The New York Times  
[michael.shear@nytimes.com](mailto:michael.shear@nytimes.com)  
202-681-0415 (mobile/signal)

**From:** [Christopher Flavelle](#)  
**To:** [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 3:22:05 PM

---

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Is the department releasing an embargoed version of the strategy?

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

**From:** U.S. Department of the Interior <[info@updates.interior.gov](mailto:info@updates.interior.gov)>  
**Date:** Wed, May 12, 2021 at 11:04 AM  
**Subject:** Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness  
**To:** <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## **Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness**

**WASHINGTON** — Tomorrow, May 13, 2021, at 12:00 PM ET, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and wildland fire experts will hold a media availability to outline the administration's wildland fire management goals, including working with State, Tribal and local partners to ensure an all-of-government response to wildland fire and to promote climate resiliency across landscapes and communities.

**WHAT:** Press call to discuss Interior and Agriculture Departments' shared vision for wildland fire preparedness and response.

**WHO:**

- Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland
- Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
- Jeff Rupert, Director of Interior's Office of Wildland Fire
- Patty Grantham, Acting Director, Fire and Aviation Management, USDA Forest Service

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 12:00 PM ET

**DIAL-IN:** Credentialed members of the media may join the call by dialing 800-369-3358; passcode "FIREFIGHTER"

###

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**About the U.S. Department of Interior**

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.



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This email was sent to [christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com) by: U.S. Department of the Interior · 1849 C Street, N.W. · Washington DC 20240 · 202-208-3100



--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

**From:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HAALAND PROFILE RUNS ON MONDAY, PLS READ  
**Date:** Saturday, May 29, 2021 6:41:27 PM

---

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Hi Melissa;

"Through a spokeswoman Ms. Haaland declined repeated invitations to be interviewed for this article," is what I'm writing, alas.

You mentioned the refusal to make her available was not your decision. Whomever decided that should know that 27 people talked with me about her, almost all of them Native Americans. Yet her voice is absent from the piece. That looks unusual, at best. The article is skedded for Monday, as I mentioned in my note of yesterday, which is below.

I have the following questions for DoI /BIA / the secy:

The article centers on the deep symbolism the secretary's appt holds for Native American people, and their hopes, priorities and expectations for her. Heightening this significance is the fact that she leads a dept officially responsible for Native Americans' welfare, with a 150-year history of betrayal. Does she have a response or statement for those placing such faith in her?

I have included an excerpt from the secy's nomination speech in Dec about how she is testament to the failure of the horrific ideology of "extermination" espoused by Alexander Stuart, her long-ago predecessor in 1851. Anything she would like to add?

You mentioned that Somah is non-binary, or transgender? Is that public? Also--how shall I describe Somah: what pronouns? Also I need Somah's age, please.

When the secy visited Bears Ears she raised hopes that the president would act swiftly to reverse Trump's order slashing the size of the monument and of Grand Staircase-Escalante. The Inter-Tribal Coalition advocates for the monument to be made even larger than provided for in Obama's order, to 1.9 mln acres comanaged by the tribes. Anything new on this, beyond what the secy said in her April WH briefing? Anything new on the pause on new permits for drilling on public lands?

I mention in the pc that some tribes question Pres Biden's pledge to end fracking, for ex, on public land, since that is a source of income. Any comment on that?

The ladies at lunch in Laguna said that among their priorities for the secy was pushing for folo-thru on long stalled superfund remediation of the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium mine, on Laguna Pueblo lands less than 5 mi from her family home. I am writing that the mine was dug under DoI supervision; it closed in 1982 and four decades later remains a Superfund site. Many Laguna blame a faulty initial cleanup--overseen by BIA and performed by a Laguna

Development Corp construction co--for spiking cancer cases among former workers and nearby villagers, as well as social problems related to unemployment. I'm seeking a response from DoI and/or BIA.

The women I met were unhappy that the Laguna, the secy's own tribe, was the last to endorse her nomination as secy and had to be "shamed" into it. Ashley Sarracino said it's an example of the "toxic masculinity and patriarchy that goes on around here." Any response from the secy?

Drawing from public statements, I say that the secy has pledged to bring more federal resources to bear on the scourge of missing and murdered Indigenous people; that she has helped create a cross-departmental Missing and Murdered Unit and worked on implementation of the Not Invisible Act, which established a joint Interior and Justice Department-led commission on reducing violent crime against Indigenous people. All correct? I interviewed Annita Lucchesi of Sovereign Bodies, which advocates and researches this issue. She pressed for greater representation by survivors and families on the joint commission and would like to see more grassroots consultation on the issue. She said, "To me it just doesn't make sense to rely on federal authorities to craft solutions and address this crisis when their systemic negligence and bias is responsible for this crisis in the first place." Any response?

I may have a few more as the editors dig in, but that's what I have so far.

Many thanks, Melissa. E.

Elizabeth Williamson  
Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

On Fri, May 28, 2021 at 12:01 PM Elizabeth Williamson

<[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)> wrote:

Hi there--at this moment it looks like the story is running on Monday. I'm enroute to DC from NM all day so I'm afraid that if they stick to that sked I'll have to email any questions to you on the weekend, sorry for that, but is there a number where I can readily reach you to check things for accuracy? Also, last call for an interview w the Secretary! If minds change there and she is avail I may be able to push them off until Tuesday or something so as not to disturb her weekend, not sure. Thanks for everything, Melissa. E.

Elizabeth Williamson  
Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#); [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Haaland quote under embargo?  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 3:30:58 PM

---

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Hi, guys,

I've got my "Haaland confirmed" story ready to post when the vote comes this evening. Will she have a statement at that time? Cld you send on embargo, just so we can have it in the story right away? It will not be used until after the confirmation vote is done.

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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O 202-862-0359  
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Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)



**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Happy Friday!  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 11:50:00 AM

---

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I am hoping for a slow one. Would you have some time to chat today? No deadline, just to check in.

Cheers,

cd

--

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**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I understand that there is some news coming out about ESA today  
**Date:** Friday, June 4, 2021 10:34:09 AM

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And I am trying to understand it more clearly. Would you mind giving a call to help talk me through this on background?

--

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**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] in other news  
**Date:** Friday, July 23, 2021 4:03:04 PM

---

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On background and for my guidance - should we be expecting news from you guys next week? What is the status of the drilling on public lands report?  
Happy Friday!

--

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The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Interviewing (soon-to-be) Sec. Haaland  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 9:54:40 AM

---

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Hi, Melissa,

I hope you're doing well! It's looking like Haaland will be confirmed next week - would love to set up an interview with her as soon as possible, talking about what lies ahead for her and the Department. What might work for you guys?

Best,  
Coral

--

Coral Davenport  
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The New York Times  
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**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Is this accurate?  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 1, 2021 2:43:44 PM

---

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This seems to say that you guys will release an EIS that will conclude that there should not be oil leasing in ANWR. But I'm not totally clear on this. Is this accurate?

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/01/biden-anwr-alaska-oil-491498>

--

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**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] it's not letting me join the meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:07:13 PM

---

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is there a phone number i could call?

--

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C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] moment to chat?  
**Date:** Thursday, March 18, 2021 5:01:21 PM

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We are doing some reporting on what you guys are finding in the agencies as you come in and look around and talk to people in the wake of the last administration -- particularly regarding the undermining of science. During Trump, wrote about what James Reilly was doing with climate modeling at USGS -- saying that climate models should not show outcomes after midcentury, for example. So - was there more stuff like that, and worse? What are you hearing from scientists at USGS, FWS, NPS? Have you found other examples? Policies or memos or accounts of how the Trump appointees suppressed or disregarded science - stuff that we haven't heard about? Would love to learn if there are.

--

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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] national monuments report  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 2:31:58 PM

---

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can you confirm that it recommends reinstating the old boundaries for bears ears, grand staircase and seamounts?  
tks

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport



**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] new order halting drilling on public lands  
**Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 1:55:21 PM

---

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can you guys send press release on this?  
tks!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Mark Walker](#)  
**To:** [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New York Times media inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 2:38:39 PM

---

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Good afternoon,  
I hope this email finds you well.  
My name is Mark Walker and I'm a reporter for The New York Times.  
I'm writing a story and looking into another.  
The story I'm currently writing is an investigative piece on the issues taking place at the Prairie Island Indian Community in Minnesota with the nuclear waste and flooding from a nearby dam.  
The tribal chairwoman says they are trying to get land they purchased placed into trust to preserve the future of the community.  
She says Ms. Haaland is aware of this issue and looking into it to see what can be done.  
Would it be possible to speak with the Secretary or get a statement about issues the tribe is facing and any efforts that are underway to address it?  
Also, I wanted to follow up with someone about a statement the Secretary made about 80 percent of the Interior federal employees who died from covid being employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.  
Is there someone I can speak with this about today?  
Feel free to call me if you have any questions, my number is 605-809-7369.  
Best,  
Mark

--

Mark Walker



Washington Bureau  
202 862 0414 office  
605 809 7369 mobile  
[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] otr briefing on Tuesday  
**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 2:47:10 PM

---

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hi, Melissa,  
It will probably be me on this zoom call - could you please send details?  
cheers,  
Coral

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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Washington, DC 20006  
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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#); [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] pen & pad w. Haaland  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 10:12:55 AM

---

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I'll be there - please send details

--

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C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: answer  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:53:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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OK - Just wondering if there's any way to phrase it so we could use that more specific number. Like,

The number of scientists and technical experts at the United States Geological Survey, an agency of the Interior Department and one of the nation's premier climate-science research institutions, fell from 3,434 in 2016 to 3,152 in 2020, a loss of about 8 percent.

Or something like that? Is there a laymens' word that could be used to describe this?

On Tue, Jul 27, 2021 at 2:00 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

The long and short is that we don't have HR metrics broken down between principal scientific investigators and those who support scientific research. Here's the textbook definition of that Career Conditional classification.

We don't have an easy metric for quickly breaking down the portion of our employees that are directly engaged in science, especially since the mission of the whole agency is to support science. So I would just use the bigger column

---

### *Professional or Nonprofessional Series*

In some cases it may be difficult to differentiate between professional and technical work based solely on the assigned duties and responsibilities. This can be especially true among positions in the sciences or engineering where technicians carry out highly exacting tasks and complicated sequences of operation. To make the proper series determination, you must consider the characteristics of each kind of assignment.

Work classified to a professional series requires education and training in the principles, concepts, and theories of the occupation. Typically, these can be gained only through completion of a specified curriculum at a recognized college or university. This requirement is called a "positive education requirement" and is common to nearly all professional occupational series.

Professional work involves creativity, analysis, evaluation, and interpretation. It involves applying basic or natural law, principles, or theory; evaluating the research of others; and assessing the need for and validity of proposed changes and improvements in procedures and methods. Professional responsibility involves the ability to reason from existing knowledge to unexplored areas; to adapt methods to circumstances that deviate from the standards; and to stay abreast of and evaluate technical subjects, analyses, and proposals in professional literature.

Closely allied to professional work is work performed by nonprofessional support personnel. Their duties and responsibilities, especially at the higher levels, may appear very similar to those of professional employees in related kinds of work. Technical work, however, is normally planned and managed by professional employees. The technician carries out or implements plans or projects based on extensive experience and supplemental on-the-job training rather than on formal academic education in the discipline itself. Technical or nonprofessional work is performed typically in a narrow or highly specialized area of the overall occupation and requires a high degree of practical knowledge and skill. The experienced technician often works with considerable independence for significant periods of time. This

independence, however, does not alter the nature and character of the work, which is to support a professional discipline.

Positions can be considered professional only if the work *requires* application of professional knowledge and ability. *Neither the desirability of such qualifications nor the employee's possession of them is a factor in determining the series.*

Whenever there is a question of whether to classify a position in a professional or nonprofessional series, you must consider the following points that are common to all professional positions:

- the work requires application of professional knowledge and skills;
- management has decided that the work is to be performed following accepted professional methods and practices; and
- the employee in the position meets the professional qualification requirements for the occupation.

**NOTE:** All series that cover professional work are identified in the series definitions found in the [Handbook of Occupational Groups and Families](#).

--

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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Coral Davenport sent me...  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 7:21:27 AM

---

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Good morning Melissa; any time for a quick call today?

On Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 10:19 AM Elizabeth Williamson  
<[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)> wrote:

Hi Melissa! Coral recommended you most highly as the person to see for this assignment. I'd like to do a story on Secy Haaland's work on relations with the Native American community, which I understand is a key priority. Would you have time to speak together today or tomorrow so I can learn more about her upcoming efforts and travel? I'm disappointed to have missed her trip to Utah, but hope for an upcoming opportunity to observe her in action. If you provide a number I can call you, or my cell is 202 674 2463. Many thanks,  
Elizabeth Williamson

Elizabeth Williamson  
Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

**From:** [Henry Fountain](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: FW: News Release: The BLM seeks comments on Scope of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 12:17:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-pwhyp1dk.png](#)  
[Outlook-h33tbjtt.png](#)  
[Outlook-vistl01s.png](#)  
[Outlook-wxstgymh.png](#)  
[Outlook-rccwpow1.png](#)  
[Outlook-3vg0pr4c.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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no, but thanks for sending.

Henry Fountain  
Climate reporter, [The New York Times](#)  
New Mexico, USA  
914.584.0371 [fountain@nytimes.com](mailto:fountain@nytimes.com)

On Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 10:04 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Did you get?

---

**From:** Ellis-Wouters, Lesli J <[lellis@blm.gov](mailto:lellis@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 11:56 AM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Press, BLM <[BLM\\_Press@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_Press@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: News Release: The BLM seeks comments on Scope of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

FYI, and on our website



Lesli J. Ellis-Wouters

Communications Director

Alaska | Bureau of Land Management

w: 907-271-4418

c: 907-331-8763

w: [www.blm.gov/alaska](http://www.blm.gov/alaska) e: [lellis@blm.gov](mailto:lellis@blm.gov)





**From:** Communications, BLM\_AK <[BLM\\_AK\\_Communications@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AK_Communications@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 7:36 AM

**Subject:** News Release: The BLM seeks comments on Scope of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program



# News Release

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office

222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99513

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE News Release No. 21-23**

**Contact** Lesli Ellis-Wouters, [lellis@blm.gov](mailto:lellis@blm.gov); 907-271-4418 **Date:** Aug. 3, 2021

## **The BLM seeks comments on Scope of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program**

*NOTE: This release is also [available online](#)*

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** - The Bureau of Land Management today announced a 60-day public scoping period to assist in the preparation of a supplemental environmental impact statement for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

In June, [Secretary's Order 3401](#) called for the Department of the Interior to [suspend all activities](#) related to the implementation of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge pending completion of a comprehensive analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The publication of a notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement in the [Federal Register](#) begins the comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Program, including addressing deficiencies identified in the Secretary's Order.

The notice initiates the public scoping process for the supplemental environmental impact statement. Comments on issues, impacts, and potential new alternatives to be analyzed may be submitted electronically through <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/102555/510>. Comments can also be mailed to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Supplemental EIS, 222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

Documents pertaining to the environmental impact statement may be examined at the [Coastal Plain Leasing EIS BLM NEPA Page](#).

###

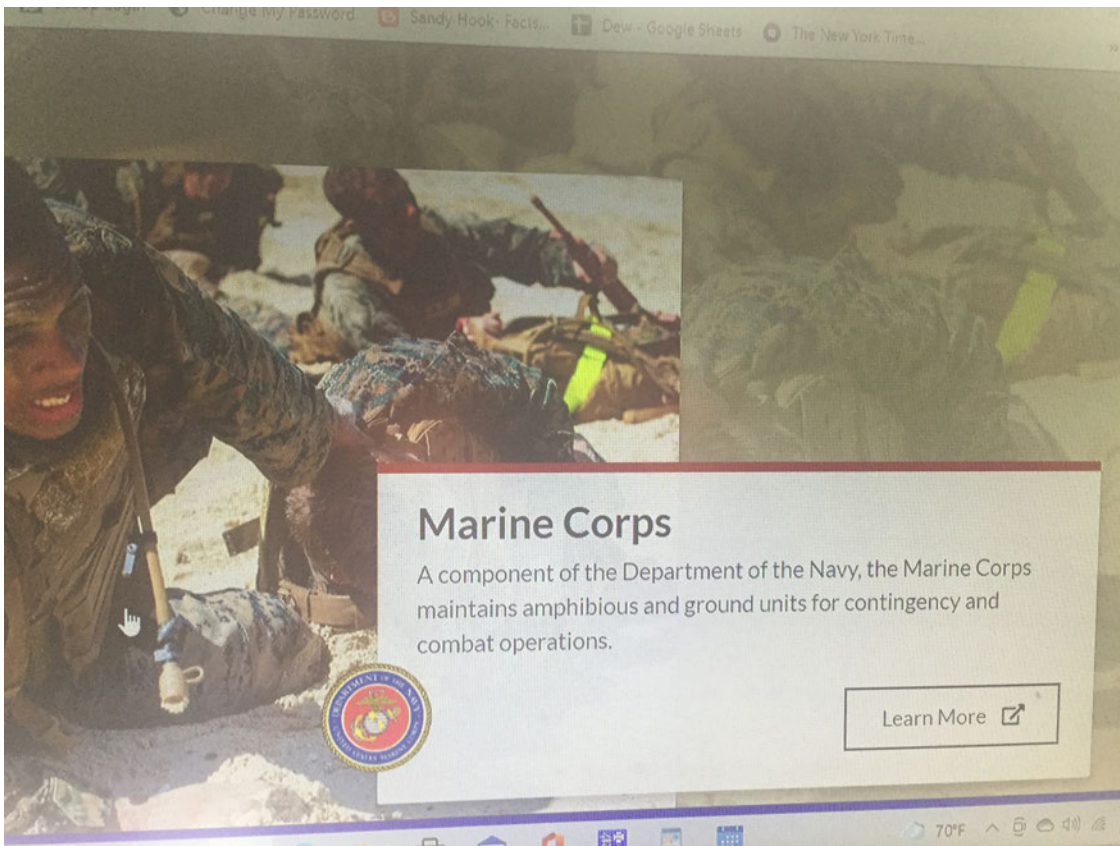
*This year, we invite everyone to reimagine your public lands as we celebrate 75 years of the BLM's stewardship and service to the American people. The BLM manages approximately 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

**From:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: I know you are annoyed at me  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 10:15:02 AM

---

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The Marines [is part of the Navy](#). The sentence is correct.



Elizabeth Williamson  
Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

On Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 9:19 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

wrote:

The Secretary asked me to pass on her appreciation and gratitude that you traveled to speak with Pueblo women. She pointed out that while Mom was in the Navy, her Dad was in the Marines. She wondered if your editors could change that online.

Thanks

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 9:06:11 AM

**To:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Subject:** I know you are annoyed at me

But I just wanted to say that I thought the profile turned out really lovely. I hope you are happy with it.

M

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: is there anyone you AREN'T calling?  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:42:28 PM

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Yes! Can you talk tomorrow at noon?

On Wed, Feb 17, 2021 at 10:09 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

| My goodness you are thorough. Want to connect on the profile you're working on?

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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Washington, DC 20006  
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C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: moment to chat?  
**Date:** Friday, March 19, 2021 12:07:57 PM

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Checking back in on this: we have learned that EPA is actually conducting a review of several Trump rule-makings to see if they can find violations of scientific integrity - is DOI doing anything like this?

Tks!

On Thu, Mar 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)> wrote:

We are doing some reporting on what you guys are finding in the agencies as you come in and look around and talk to people in the wake of the last administration -- particularly regarding the undermining of science. During Trump, wrote about what James Reilly was doing with climate modeling at USGS -- saying that climate models should not show outcomes after midcentury, for example. So - was there more stuff like that, and worse? What are you hearing from scientists at USGS, FWS, NPS? Have you found other examples? Policies or memos or accounts of how the Trump appointees suppressed or disregarded science - stuff that we haven't heard about? Would love to learn if there are.

--

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--

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Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Cc:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Pen and pad briefing with Sec. Haaland  
**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2021 1:26:51 PM

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Looking forward to it - sad it's not in person but hoping that can happen later this year.

On Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 1:21 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY/OFF THE RECORD:**

Hi there –

As a follow up, you are invited to a virtual pen and pad briefing with Secretary Haaland this Wednesday, March 24, from 9:30-10:00 am Eastern. The Zoom registration information is below - we ask that you please not share this link with anyone else, as it is unique to you. Please let us know if you cannot make it and someone else from your newsroom will be joining instead.

While the briefing will be on the record, any recording should be for your reporting but not for any broadcast purposes.

[https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1604926858?  
pwd=VXlxU01tYml6L3BNbzg3ZFVjcGMydz09](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1604926858?pwd=VXlxU01tYml6L3BNbzg3ZFVjcGMydz09)

Meeting ID: 160 492 6858

Passcode: interior

Thanks so much! Please reach out with any questions ahead of the meeting. Secretary Haaland is looking forward to meeting you all.

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

Follow us at [@USInteriorPress](#) and sign up [here](#) for updates from Interior.



--

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**From:** [Veronica Penney](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Story on renewable energy development  
**Date:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:07:04 PM

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Hi Melissa,

Thank you for following up. Tyler and I were able to connect regarding my initial questions. I'm meeting with my editor tomorrow to talk about this story, so I'll have a better sense of what information I still need following that meeting.

Best,  
Veronica

On Mon, May 3, 2021 at 5:56 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey there – I wanted to follow up on this and also make sure you saw today's news:  
<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-approves-solar-energy-project-california-desert>

We have another announcement coming up, please let me know if we can connect!

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 6:50 PM  
**To:** [veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Story on renewable energy development

Veronica,

I'm so sorry to pipe in late on a Friday night but I'm digging out of my inbox and realizing that you have an outstanding request to the Bureau of Land Management that I believe Tyler Cherry was in contact with you on. Tyler is out of the office for a few days so I am trying to make sure I'm covering my bases.

Did you and Tyler speak about you connecting with additional members of our staff? I know you had some specific questions for BLM but would love the opportunity to put a member of our leadership on the phone with you on background to talk through the Biden-Harris Administration's goals and how we at Interior are working to accelerate renewable energy

development and create new clean energy jobs.

Have we missed the boat there or would it be possible to connect on Monday? Thanks so much and again apologies.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] sigh  
**Date:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 12:24:47 PM

---

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can you please confirm and send comment on this Jennifer Van der Heide thing and ideally give a call to help explain/talk it through on background?  
703-618-0645

--

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**From:** [Mark Walker](#)  
**To:** [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Statement on Supreme Court ruling  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 4:08:01 PM

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Good afternoon, my name is Mark Walker, a reporter with The New York Times. I'm checking to see if the Department has a statement to make on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling.  
Best,  
Mark

--

Mark Walker



Washington Bureau

202 862 0414 office

605 809 7369 mobile

[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] thanks for doing the call yesterday!  
**Date:** Friday, September 24, 2021 11:48:41 AM

---

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Sorry we were all so annoying w oil & gas lease Qs.  
Could you give a call?  
Interested in what else might be coming down the pike.  
Cheers,  
cd

--

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Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The 2017 tax law requires a second lease sale  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 11:25:14 AM

---

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We are writing a follow-up story getting into this and what that law will mean. It looks like it means you have to have a second lease sale by the end of 2024. So...will that happen? Are there ways for the administration to slow-walk or get around it, if that's what it wants? Could you talk about this or put me on the phone w a staffer who can guide me through it?

Background fine I just want to really understand it.

on deadline for now, alas,

tk,

cd

--

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The New York Times  
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C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Tomorrow's wind announcement  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 4:23:30 PM

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Cld you send background/details under embargo?

Tks!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport



**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#); [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] v. important on number of wind turbines!!  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 3:59:20 PM

---

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Your press release says the RoD "grants Vineyard Wind final federal approval to install 84 or fewer turbines".

When I look in the RoD it says "The proposed Project will consist of up to 100 WTGs"

And elsewhere it looks like it's 62 turbines. Can you please clarify ASAP?

tk!

--

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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] vineyard wind  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 8:11:47 PM

---

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We are getting ready to pub a story that Tuesday's announcement is final permits for Vineyard Wind. Cld you confirm on background? I think we wld prob post early tomoro am and then build out the story during the day

--

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C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] will you guys appeal this ruling in Louisiana?  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 1:03:33 PM

---

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--

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C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Would you have a moment to chat OTR?  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:44:37 AM

---

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Yesterday was very strange.

And, for planning and guidance, should we be expecting more this week?

And! Now that we are (b) (6), can we get together for a background coffee?

Cheers,

cd

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
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Twitter @CoralMDavenport

missing something?

I heard no more than 84

I asked BOEM

Thank you. The number in all the documents is "no more than 84". We just got confused when we saw 62 reported elsewhere and wanted to be sure we hadn't missed something

My impression is that the environmental review and stuff indicates no more than 84. That doesn't mean they have to do 84

Right . "Up to 84". We had just been seeing 62 in stories. But the RoD

Up to 84

VM selected a 13 MW turbine, which gets you to about 62



We have approval for up to 84, they are using 62

Tue, Jun 22, 11:18 PM

Hey there, I need to staff her hearing tomorrow. I'm sorry but I need a rain check!

Totally understand, of course! Will hit you up again in next weeks/

Please do!

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] pen & pad w. Haaland  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 10:18:00 AM

---

Seriously?

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 10:02 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>; Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] pen & pad w. Haaland

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I'll be there - please send details

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] A Q for you  
**Date:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:26:04 PM

---

282 scientists left overall from 2016 to 2020 and then 90 hired in 2021. No summary as to whether that was attrition, retirement, etc or whether there was an increase in funding in 2021 etc so I can't speculate on the why but the breakdown is below. Overall employees from 2016 to now is down 352 but up from 2020.

YEAR	Career Conditional Prof Series	Total USGS Employees
2016	3434	8309
2017	3459	8457
2018	3420	8183
2019	3217	7895
2020	3152	7778
2021	3242	7957

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:13 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A Q for you

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

What was the number of employees at USGS in 2016 vs. now?

--

Coral Davenport

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--

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C 703-618-0645

Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Henry Fountain](#); [Interior Press](#)  
**Cc:** [Press, BLM](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 11:52:00 AM

---

Hi Henry – it's in the Federal Register this morning. Release coming any minute...

---

**From:** Henry Fountain <[fountain@nytimes.com](mailto:fountain@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 11:50 AM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

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Hi

I'm hearing that Interior will file a notice of intent tomorrow to undertake a new environmental review of oil development in the 1006 Area of ANWR. I'm going to do a short item about it. Do you all have more details/comment etc.? Thanks  
Henry Fountain

Climate reporter, [The New York Times](#)  
New Mexico, USA  
914.584.0371 [fountain@nytimes.com](mailto:fountain@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] A Q for you  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:41:28 AM

---

Yes, but I'm trying to triple check

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 3:56 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] A Q for you

One more question here. Does the line "Career conditional prof series" refer to "career scientists"? What is the difference between the first column and the second column? tks!

On Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 5:26 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

282 scientists left overall from 2016 to 2020 and then 90 hired in 2021. No summary as to whether that was attrition, retirement, etc or whether there was an increase in funding in 2021 etc so I can't speculate on the why but the breakdown is below. Overall employees from 2016 to now is down 352 but up from 2020.

YEAR	Career Conditional Prof Series	Total USGS Employees
2016	3434	8309
2017	3459	8457
2018	3420	8183
2019	3217	7895
2020	3152	7778
2021	3242	7957

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:13 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A Q for you

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

What was the number of employees at USGS in 2016 vs. now?

--

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--

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--

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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Also!  
**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2021 1:01:42 PM

---

Okay-- I remain hopeful that there will be a chance to talk with her, if not in person at least by phone! thanks Melissa.

Elizabeth Williamson  
Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

On Fri, May 14, 2021 at 12:42 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I am really not sure but I am navigating. And it turns out she won't be back for several more weeks so definitely stick with your plans!

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 12:27 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Also!

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Do you think there will be a chance to interview Secy Haaland? That obviously is our biggest missing piece! Thanks.

Elizabeth Williamson

Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Bears Ears  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:45:00 AM

---

I have zero insight into this right now unfortunately

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <coral.davenport@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:42 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bears Ears

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Can you offer guidance on announcement/timing?  
tks!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** ["Coral Davenport"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] can you please give a call?  
**Date:** Monday, August 16, 2021 5:46:52 PM

---

More than happy for you to not write

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <coral.davenport@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 5:46 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] can you please give a call?

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I'm trying to understand what exactly is new - the decision already required the administration to resume the leasing. We will not do a story about the appeal - I'm just trying to understand what, beyond the appeal, is substantively new. (b) (6)

--

Coral Davenport  
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The New York Times  
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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] checking back in  
**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2021 12:19:17 PM

---

Yes - you know our readers love owls! I may circle back for a bit more

On Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 12:16 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

That may be the best one for you that didn't get a bunch of press already. Let me know if you need anything more on this

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 11:56 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] checking back in

Great, thank you!

On Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 11:44 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

It was the Northern Spotted Owl – trying to get you the details.

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 11:35 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] checking back in

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Hey, there - I think we'd like to move forward quickly on our story about what agencies are finding about new examples of the ways in which science was disregarded in the previous administration. Would you be able to send along or connect me to someone who can talk about the examples you mentioned -- I think you said there were two specific examples of science being disregarded on ESA listings, which have not been reported.

Cheers,

Coral

--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times



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C 703-618-0645

Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] checking in Monday?  
**Date:** Friday, June 18, 2021 10:30:16 AM

---

Was that you!? I thought so! Sure I'm around will call in a few

On Fri, Jun 18, 2021 at 10:11 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Pretty sure I walked past you at the store on Wednesday! Happy to chat

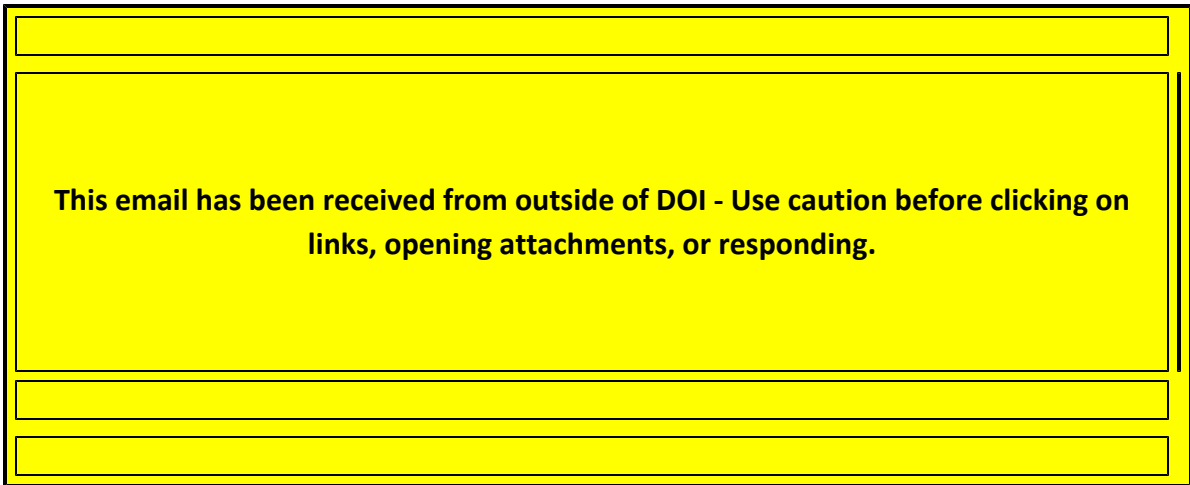
---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2021 10:09 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] checking in Monday?



Hey! Don't want to interrupt your holiday - I just need to get better about checking in with comms staff on Fridays to see what the week ahead is expected to bring. We can chat on Monday - I just worried that if I waited until Monday to

send the email I'd forget!

Cheers

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times  
(202) 862-0306 office  
(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Coal leasing announcement?  
**Date:** Monday, August 16, 2021 4:53:58 PM

---

Argh, ok. Could you please give a call and offer details and guidance on background? I'm trying to juggle a (b) (6), my colleagues are on vacation and I just need to make sure we don't get slammed. I'm fine with honoring an embargo.

On Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 4:51 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Don't make plans tonight

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 2:47 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Coal leasing announcement?

Ok - something coming later this week? Could you offer guidance and details on embargo?

On Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 2:44 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

No announcement tomorrow

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Coal leasing announcement?

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Do you have something coming on this? Can you share on embargo? --

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

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--

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--

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Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] comment on Alaska judge ruling on Willow?  
**Date:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:53:31 AM

---

Additional comment is below, attributable to an Interior spokesperson. If your outlet will not accept that attribution and requires the use of an individual's name, please disregard this message:

“In a lengthy decision, the district court identified a number of issues in the environmental reviews and approvals issued in 2020. The Interior Department is analyzing the decision.”

Thank you

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:34 PM  
**To:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] comment on Alaska judge ruling on Willow?

Nothing from us, thanks

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:32:28 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comment on Alaska judge ruling on Willow?

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--

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Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport



**From:** [Mark Walker](#)  
**To:** [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**Cc:** [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Pueblo of Acoma  
**Date:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 5:38:34 PM

---

Thank you!

On Thu, Apr 29, 2021 at 4:03 PM Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Mark,

Thanks for writing in. Nothing for you on this.

Best,

Giovanni Rocco

Deputy Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Cell: 202-281-8692

---

**From:** Mark Walker <[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:34 PM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Pueblo of Acoma

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Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Mark Walker and I'm a reporter for The New York Times.

Secretary Haaland criticized I.H.S. after they reduced services at the Pueblo of Acoma hospital.

Today, the tribe and I.H.S. reached an agreement to restore emergency and in-patient services.

I'm writing a story to run in tomorrow's paper.

Would it be possible to get a comment about the agreement reached between Acome and I.H.S.?

Best,

Mark

--

Mark Walker

Washington Bureau

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605 809 7369 mobile

[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

--

Mark Walker

Washington Bureau

202 862 0414 office

605 809 7369 mobile

[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] comment request on Stone-Manning  
**Date:** Monday, July 19, 2021 8:37:14 AM

---

Ty very much  
Lisa

On Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 8:35 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

The Interior Department stands by Tracy's statements and written submissions. Thanks

---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2021 8:07 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comment request on Stone-Manning

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Hi there. Hoping you can respond to these questions and also send me a general quote about whether Secretary Haaland continues to stand behind Ms. Stone-Manning.

+ Can you comment on the new allegations made by the former Forest Service investigator Michael Merkeley that Ms. Stone-Manning was uncooperative when the agency first investigated the tree-spiking incident and only agreed to share information after she was granted immunity.

+ Can you speak to why Ms. Stone-Manning did not report the incident to authorities between the time it was being investigated and when she was granted immunity to testify?

+ One of the men convicted in the case, Mr. Blount, now says Ms. Manning was aware of the tree-spiking plan for several months prior to when it occurred. Can you respond to that allegation?

Thanks so much. My deadline is end of day. Best

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Robert Semple](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] congrats and welcome back!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:11:00 PM

---

Bob!

Always drive me nuts – you are a welcomed distraction!

Let me know if you need anything,

M

Melissa Schwartz

Communications Director

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)

---

**From:** Robert Semple <semple@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] congrats and welcome back!

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This is beginning to look like a college reunion! Kate, Matt, now you, David Hayes over at the WH with a bunch of others I also know. Very reassuring. I think Interior is lucky to have you back during what promise to be exciting times. I will try not to drive you nuts. Bob

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] drilling report coming this week?  
**Date:** Monday, August 2, 2021 4:36:00 PM

---

No updates for ya, thanks

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <coral.davenport@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 2, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] drilling report coming this week?

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Or anything else, for guidance?

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
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[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] following up again  
**Date:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 5:53:43 PM

---

Thanks!

On Thu, Apr 29, 2021 at 5:17 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Here's that article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/01/opinion/native-american-secretary-interior-deb-haaland.html?searchResultPosition=22>

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 11:37 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] following up again

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Hi Melissa, my editor is pushing hard for this piece on the secretary's work with tribal



nations; they would like to set the piece on tribal lands. Any luck on finding a family Ms. Haaland assisted on the missing/murdered issue? or her

travel plans for the coming two weeks? I understand it's crazy busy there but the missing/murdered initiative you mentioned is being announced May 5, correct? That's this coming Wednesday, so I am keen for your guidance.

Many thanks,

Elizabeth

cell 202 674 2463

Elizabeth Williamson

Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Christopher Flavelle](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 1:07:00 PM

---

Gotcha – sorry I thought they were reaching out at 11

---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 12:41 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness  
Yep -- I saw the release from USDA after I emailed you.  
On Thu, May 13, 2021 at 12:11 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Chris, did you not receive materials from USDA?  
Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 11:16:05 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness  
Hi, anything you can share?  
On Wed, May 12, 2021 at 3:23 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Chris – if we have something we are able to share in advance, we will make sure you are on the list

---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 11:07 AM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness

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Is the department releasing an embargoed version of the strategy?

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

From: **U.S. Department of the Interior** <[info@updates.interior.gov](mailto:info@updates.interior.gov)>  
Date: Wed, May 12, 2021 at 11:04 AM  
Subject: Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness  
To: <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>

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## US Department of the Interior Media Advisory



Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack to Outline Administration's Wildland Fire Response, Climate Resiliency Preparedness

**WASHINGTON** — Tomorrow, May 13, 2021, at 12:00 PM ET, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and wildland fire experts will hold a media availability to outline the administration's wildland fire management goals, including working with State, Tribal and local partners to ensure an all-of-government response to wildland fire and to promote climate resiliency across landscapes and communities.

**WHAT:** Press call to discuss Interior and Agriculture Departments' shared vision for wildland fire preparedness and response.

### WHO:

- Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland
- Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
- Jeff Rupert, Director of Interior's Office of Wildland Fire
- Patty Grantham, Acting Director, Fire and Aviation Management, USDA Forest Service

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 12:00 PM ET

**DIAL-IN:** Credentialed members of the media may join the call by dialing 800-369-3358; passcode "FIREFIGHTER"

###

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## About the U.S. Department of Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.



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---

This email was sent to [christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com) by: U.S. Department of the Interior · 1849 C Street, N.W. · Washington DC 20240 · 202-208-3100



--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] HAALAND PROFILE RUNS ON MONDAY, PLS READ  
**Date:** Sunday, May 30, 2021 9:42:00 AM

---

Good morning,

See below in CAPS/red, all should be considered on background unless a public link is provided.

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2021 6:40 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HAALAND PROFILE RUNS ON MONDAY, PLS READ

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hi Melissa;

"Through a spokeswoman Ms. Haaland declined repeated invitations to be interviewed for this article," is what I'm writing, alas.

You mentioned the refusal to make her available was not your decision. Whomever decided that should know that 27 people talked with me about her, almost all of them Native Americans. Yet her voice is absent from the piece. That looks unusual, at best. The article is skedded for Monday, as I mentioned in my note of yesterday, which is below.

I have the following questions for DoI /BIA / the secy:

The article centers on the deep symbolism the secretary's appt holds for Native American people, and their hopes, priorities and expectations for her. Heightening this significance is the fact that she leads a dept officially responsible for Native Americans' welfare, with a 150-year history of betrayal. Does she have a response or statement for those placing such faith in her?

**IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ARE ALREADY WORKING OFF THE OPENING STATEMENT FOR HER CONFIRMATION HEARING. HER FIRST PRESS INTERVIEW, WHICH WAS A DAY ONE ROUNDTABLE WITH MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALIST ASSOCIATION, ALSO HAS ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE:** <https://www.indianz.com/News/2021/03/17/hit-the-ground-running-secretary-haaland-engages-with-native-media-on-first-day-in-office/>

*"I know that Indian Country is watching what we at Interior will do. I feel the support, the love, and also the pressure to do everything I can to get this right. I believe that we have the opportunity of a lifetime to protect our environment and our way of life for generations to come."*

I have included an excerpt from the secy's nomination speech in Dec about how she is testament to the failure of the horrific ideology of "extermination" espoused by Alexander Stuart, her long-ago predecessor in 1851. Anything she would like to add?

**NO**

You mentioned that Somah is non-binary, or transgender? Is that public? Also--how shall I describe Somah: what pronouns? Also I need Somah's age, please.

**SOMAH IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY. THEIR PREFERRED PRONOUNS ARE THEY/THEM. SOMAH TURNED 27 THIS MONTH:**

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CPGuT92r J /?utm\\_medium=copy link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CPGuT92r J /?utm_medium=copy link)

When the secy visited Bears Ears she raised hopes that the president would act swiftly to reverse Trump's order slashing the size of the monument and of Grand Staircase-Escalante. The Inter-Tribal

Coalition advocates for the monument to be made even larger than provided for in Obama's order, to 1.9 mln acres comanaged by the tribes. Anything new on this, beyond what the secy said in her April WH briefing?

**NO**

Anything new on the pause on new permits for drilling on public lands?

**THERE IS NO PAUSE ON PERMITS TO DRILL:** <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/fact-sheet-president-biden-take-action-uphold-commitment-restore-balance-public-lands>

**President Biden's January 27 executive order called for a pause on new oil and natural gas leasing on public lands and offshore waters, concurrent with a comprehensive review of the federal oil and gas program. The targeted pause does not impact existing operations or permits for valid, existing leases, which are continuing to be reviewed and approved on the millions of acres under lease to industry. The order does not restrict energy activities on private or state lands, or lands that the United States holds in trust or restricted status for Tribes or individual Indians.**

I mention in the pc that some tribes question Pres Biden's pledge to end fracking, for ex, on public land, since that is a source of income. Any comment on that?

**THIS IS A QUESTION FOR THE WHITE HOUSE**

The ladies at lunch in Laguna said that among their priorities for the secy was pushing for folo-thru on long stalled superfund remediation of the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium mine, on Laguna Pueblo lands less than 5 mi from her family home. I am writing that the mine was dug under DoI supervision; it closed in 1982 and four decades later remains a Superfund site. Many Laguna blame a faulty initial cleanup--overseen by BIA and performed by a Laguna Development Corp construction co--for spiking cancer cases among former workers and nearby villagers, as well as social problems related to unemployment. I'm seeking a response from DoI and/or BIA.

**SUPERFUND SITE MANAGEMENT FALLS UNDER THE EPA. I AM NOT ABLE TO GET ANY FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT ANY HISTORICAL INTERIOR INVOLVEMENT OVER THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND.**

The women I met were unhappy that the Laguna, the secy's own tribe, was the last to endorse her nomination as secy and had to be "shamed" into it. Ashley Sarracino said it's an example of the "toxic masculinity and patriarchy that goes on around here." Any response from the secy?

**NO**

Drawing from public statements, I say that the secy has pledged to bring more federal resources to bear on the scourge of missing and murdered Indigenous people; that she has helped create a cross-departmental Missing and Murdered Unit and worked on implementation of the Not Invisible Act, which established a joint Interior and Justice Department-led commission on reducing violent crime against Indigenous people. All correct?

**YES**

I interviewed Annita Lucchesi of Sovereign Bodies, which advocates and researches this issue. She pressed for greater representation by survivors and families on the joint commission and would like to see more grassroots consultation on the issue. She said, "To me it just doesn't make sense to rely on federal authorities to craft solutions and address this crisis when their systemic negligence and bias is responsible for this crisis in the first place." Any response?

**I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION, BUT WE HAVE NO COMMENT.**

**ON BACKGROUND: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AND INFUSE RESOURCES INTO IT. SURVIVORS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND ADVOCATES ARE AMONG THOSE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION.**

I may have a few more as the editors dig in, but that's what I have so far.



Many thanks, Melissa. E.

Elizabeth Williamson

Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

On Fri, May 28, 2021 at 12:01 PM Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)> wrote:

Hi there--at this moment it looks like the story is running on Monday. I'm enroute to DC from NM all day so I'm afraid that if they stick to that sked I'll have to email any questions to you on the weekend, sorry for that, but is there a number where I can readily reach you to check things for accuracy? Also, last call for an interview w the Secretary! If minds change there and she is avail I may be able to push them off until Tuesday or something so as not to disturb her weekend, not sure. Thanks for everything, Melissa. E.

Elizabeth Williamson

Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Happy Friday!  
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:44:27 PM

---

Hey there - sorry am on the road with the Secretary. Connect next week?

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <coral.davenport@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 11:49 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Happy Friday!

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I am hoping for a slow one. Would you have some time to chat today? No deadline, just to check in.

Cheers,  
cd

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Christopher Flavelle](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Cc:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Heads up -- NYT story on Native Americans/climate change  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 3:28:01 PM

---

Thanks for getting back to me. If you want to talk by phone I can walk you through the article.

On Mon, Mar 15, 2021 at 3:26 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Chris. Acknowledging receipt. Any additional info on the story and what specifically you're looking for would be helpful as we track this on our end.

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 1:38 PM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Heads up -- NYT story on Native Americans/climate change

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Hi Tyler. I've been working on a story about the disproportionate effects of climate change on tribal nations, and also the ways that federal policy has exacerbated those disproportionate effects.

I'd like the story to also mention the Biden administration's plans to address the effects of climate change on Native Americans, including whatever plans Interior may have. Given that Ms. Haaland seems likely to be confirmed today, does your office want to make anyone available for an interview about the policy plans of the department and/or the incoming secretary?

I don't have a hard deadline; I'm trying to wrap up the story this month. I'd be happy to give you more information about it if it's helpful.

Best,  
Chris

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] hello with a question  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 6:41:24 PM

---

On background: The Coastal Plain Leasing Program EIS failed to analyze a reasonable range of alternatives in that it did not analyze an alternative, besides the no action alternative, that involved fewer than 2,000 acres of surface development. The Tax Act provides for authorization of up to 2,000 acres to be covered by "production and support facilities." However, inclusion of the phrase "up to" indicates that less than 2,000 acres may be authorized in appropriate circumstances, such as for alternatives that make large areas unavailable for leasing or surface development and thus may require fewer production and support facilities. The explanation in the ROD for not considering such an alternative – that the Tax Act provides a mandate to the BLM requiring it to approve production and support facilities up to that limit – is both implausible and contrary to Congressional intent, which is itself a legal error.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 6:27:29 PM  
**To:** [semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com) <[semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] hello with a question  
I told her I would respond :) Trying to get off the phone to call.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Robert Semple <[semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] hello with a question  
second msg. I also called Nada with the same question. I promised to let you know what I was up to in your agency and now I have. So between you I should get an answer so I can sleep soundly.

On Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 7:59 AM Robert Semple <[semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com)> wrote:  
Great! thanks.

On Tue, Jun 1, 2021 at 9:39 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Always great to see your name in my inbox Bob. Will call you tomorrow.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)

---

**From:** Robert Semple <[semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8:31:13 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@!.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@!.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] hello with a question

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Hi Melissa—I have not had reason until now to bother you or Kate or any of my old friends at Interior but I find myself completely confused by the two decisions on Arctic drilling - yes to Conoco, no on Anwar. In the Conoco case the environmental review was deemed sufficient, in the Anwar case it was not. But was the review in the Conoco case so airtight that there was no way you could challenge the lease? Bruce Babbitt once told me that valid leases are very hard to claw back, so it's a tough call in any case. But the optics sure look strange and the administration I'm afraid looks as confused as I am. Can you help? Thanks. I am at this email and at 917-767-2679. Give me guidance when convenient.

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Hi!  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:31:05 PM

---

She's very interested and I'm speaking with her tonight. I think it's just nerves. I will make sure to send you not just her phone number and email address but also some windows of availability so you have a less difficult time getting a hold of her than I did.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:40:10 AM  
**To:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Hi!  
Oh I totally understood LOL  
I will try her again today – I know she's interested

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:03 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hi!

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

It occurred to me on my run this morning that I should assure you that I was joking when I said that about the editors and travel. It's the editors who are pushing for the travel but it's because the photos would be spectacular from out West. And it would provide a lovely perspective as opposed to from here. We are all feeling a little bit Washington-bound. Anyway is there any chance I will be able to speak with Jolene by the end of this week? I need to provide a Friday update on where we are. Thanks!

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] in other news  
**Date:** Friday, July 23, 2021 5:15:00 PM

---

No update for you – thanks!

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <coral.davenport@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 23, 2021 4:03 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] in other news

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

On background and for my guidance - should we be expecting news from you guys next week? What is the status of the drilling on public lands report?

Happy Friday!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport



**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Interviewing (soon-to-be) Sec. Haaland  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 10:13:49 AM

---

Hey there,

We will add you to the list!

Thx

Melissa Schwartz  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 9:52:58 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Interviewing (soon-to-be) Sec. Haaland

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hi, Melissa,  
I hope you're doing well! It's looking like Haaland will be confirmed next week - would love to set up an interview with her as soon as possible, talking about what lies ahead for her and the Department. What might work for you guys?  
Best,  
Coral

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Is this accurate?  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 1, 2021 2:44:00 PM

---

Off the record: Nothing for you right now – expect news late afternoon

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <coral.davenport@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 1, 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Is this accurate?

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

This seems to say that you guys will release an EIS that will conclude that there should not be oil leasing in ANWR. But I'm not totally clear on this. Is this accurate?

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/01/biden-anwr-alaska-oil-491498>

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] my question to the Secretary  
**Date:** Friday, April 2, 2021 1:16:00 PM

---

I'm sorry I didn't see this

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 2, 2021 12:34 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] my question to the Secretary

If possible one more! She talked about incorporating Indian issues into all offices and and bureaus of the agency, not just Indian affairs. What would be examples of that - how could we see the missions of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, USGS, and other such agencies take into account Native issues?

On Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 12:14 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Will do

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 2, 2021 12:13:38 PM

**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A  
<[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] my question to the Secretary

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I don't think I can resolve my audio. Could you ask the Secretary - where do things stand on reviewing the pause on new drilling and fracking leases on public lands? What will be the concrete next steps on this? Should we expect a long-term moratorium to be in place later this year?

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)

O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
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--

Coral Davenport  
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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#); [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] new order halting drilling on public lands  
**Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 3:26:51 PM

---

Hi there, thanks for reaching out! Making sure you saw this fact sheet from DOI that just went out (let me know if you're not on the press list so we can get you added back on).

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/fact-sheet-interior-department-welcomes-day-one-executive-orders-restore-public-lands>

As noted in the release, the Secretarial Order elevates review of all agency decisions. The Order does not impact existing ongoing operations under valid leases and does not preclude the issuance of leases, permits and other authorizations by those specified in the Order.

Thanks so much,

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 1:55 PM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] new order halting drilling on public lands

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can you guys send press release on this?  
tks!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**To:** [Mark Walker](#)  
**Cc:** [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] New York Times media inquiry  
**Date:** Monday, April 12, 2021 6:39:35 PM

---

Hi Mark,

Regarding the Prairie Island Indian Community inquiry:

- On background: Nothing for you at this time
- On the record from an Interior spokesperson: The Interior Department is committed to working toward environmental justice in Indian country and ensuring that Tribes have the land-bases they need to provide a safe homeland for their citizens and their families.

And we have no further comment regarding the DOI employees and COVID-19 inquiry.

Thanks,

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Mark Walker <mark.walker@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 2:26 PM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <tyler\_cherry@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Interior Press <interior\_press@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] New York Times media inquiry

Hi there,

I hope this email finds you well.

I just wanted to follow up on my email from last week to see if there are any updates.

Best,

Mark

On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 4:22 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Mark,

Thanks for reaching out. Checking on the first question with my teams. Do you have a deadline for that story?

And let me know any specific questions you have about DOI employees. Happy to do my best to address.

Thanks,

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Mark Walker <[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 2:38 PM

**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New York Times media inquiry

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Mark Walker and I'm a reporter for The New York Times.

I'm writing a story and looking into another.

The story I'm currently writing is an investigative piece on the issues taking place at the Prairie Island Indian Community in Minnesota with the nuclear waste and flooding from a nearby dam.

The tribal chairwoman says they are trying to get land they purchased placed into trust to preserve the future of the community.

She says Ms. Haaland is aware of this issue and looking into it to see what can be done.

Would it be possible to speak with the Secretary or get a statement about issues the tribe is facing and any efforts that are underway to address it?

Also, I wanted to follow up with someone about a statement the Secretary made about 80 percent of the Interior federal employees who died from covid being employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Is there someone I can speak with this about today?

Feel free to call me if you have any questions, my number is 605-809-7369.

Best,

Mark

--

Mark Walker



Washington Bureau

202 862 0414 office

605 809 7369 mobile

[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

--

Mark Walker



Washington Bureau

202 862 0414 office

605 809 7369 mobile

[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Christopher Flavelle](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] NYT request for James Langhenry  
**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2021 12:33:14 PM

---

OK, thanks for letting me know.

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 12:00 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I saw the email – thanks. James is not available for a discussion at this time.

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] NYT request for James Langhenry

Thanks Melissa. Here's the message I sent in my original request on Feb. 8: "I cover climate adaptation out of the Washington bureau of the New York Times, and I wondered if it's possible to arrange an off-the-record phone call with James Langhenry. I wanted to introduce myself, explain my beat and also see what policy areas he might be looking at in his new role."

If there's more information you'd like me to provide, maybe it's easiest to call me. But I'm just hoping for a standard off-the-record intro call. There aren't many appointees so far who focus on climate adaptation and I'm trying to speak with some of the ones who have been announced at different agencies.

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 11:37 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Chris – happy to add you. James is a special assistant, can you share a little more about what you're looking for?

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] NYT request for James Langhenry

Hi Tyler. I think this request from two weeks ago may have fallen through the cracks.

Also, I'd still like to get added to the distribution list for press releases. Can your office do that, or do I need to sign up somewhere? If so, can you send me the sign up link?

Thanks,  
Chris

On Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 4:37 PM Christopher Flavelle



<[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)> wrote:

Thanks for the quick response Tyler.

On Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 2:29 PM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Chris,

Acknowledging receipt of the request. Thanks

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

*Follow us at [@USInteriorPress](#) and sign up [here](#) for updates from Interior.*

---

**From:** Christopher Flavelle <[christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com](mailto:christopher.flavelle@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 1:44 PM

**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NYT request for James Langhenry

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good afternoon. I cover climate adaptation out of the Washington bureau of the New York Times, and I wondered if it's possible to arrange an off-the-record phone call with James Langhenry. I wanted to introduce myself, explain my beat and also see what policy areas he might be looking at in his new role.

Separately, could I get added to the department's distribution list for press releases? I can't find a signup link on your page.

Best regards,  
Chris Flavelle

--

Christopher Flavelle  
Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

--

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Climate correspondent  
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--

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Climate correspondent  
The New York Times  
Direct: 202-862-0304  
Twitter: @cflav

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] otr briefing on Tuesday  
**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 2:50:16 PM

---

Yes, it will just be me. Lisa and I tagteam on energy/enviro/climate policy coverage but generally (tho not always) I will be taking the lead on Interior & coverage of (incoming) Sec. Haaland.  
Cheers,  
Coral

On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 2:48 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Yup! Didn't know which one of you to add – but please make sure it's just one so I don't catch flack from everyone else!

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2021 2:47 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] otr briefing on Tuesday

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Hi, Melissa,

It will probably be me on this zoom call - could you please send details?

cheers,

Coral

--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

1627 I St. NW, Suite 700

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--

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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
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**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Profile  
**Date:** Friday, May 28, 2021 12:32:00 AM

---

Great to hear!

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 7:07 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Profile

I just got back to ABQ—word travels fast in Indian country! We had both red and green and happy to tell her! I was so busy listening to the ladies that I missed my chance for seconds...That was a wonderful experience, so illuminating.

On Thu, May 27, 2021 at 9:03 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I hear you're feasting with the Pueblo community! Make sure you decide if you like red or green chilies best, you may be asked :)

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 5:08:27 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Profile

I do think it'll look a bit odd since so many of her colleague sent and friends have spoken w me. This sometimes happens on tough stories but rather a mystery here! I'm boarding to ABQ...I still hope she will reconsider

On Wed, May 26, 2021 at 4:14 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I appreciate the distinction, just reflecting the challenges (this isn't coming from her). I appreciate your efforts and understand this is annoying.

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 3:36 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Profile

Hi Melissa! Thanks much for this. When you say it's unlikely she will sit for a \*second\* NYT interview are you referring to the Egan interview for Opinion? If that's the case I'd argue that Opinion and the news side are completely separate as you know. I'm not sure Tim Egan is even a full time employee tho I'm not sure, bc again, totally separate. Hope she'll reconsider

On Wed, May 26, 2021 at 3:25 PM Schwartz, Melissa A  
<[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Elizabeth,

I have provided what I hope is helpful guidance below on three of her key accomplishments over the past 2 months (I went with tangible examples as I thought they would be preferable to a things like the DOI Climate Taskforce, Working Group on Drought, or White House Council on Native American Affairs):

#### Addressing Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples crisis

- Web feature: <https://www.doi.gov/priorities/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-peoples>
- Creation of Missing & Murdered Unit: <https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american>
- Implementation of Not Invisible Act: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-haaland-continues-pursuit-justice-indian-country-begins-implementation-not>

#### Launch of America the Beautiful

- Web feature: <https://www.doi.gov/priorities/america-the-beautiful>
- Press release: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-outlines-america-beautiful-initiative>
- Report: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>

#### Standing Up a Robust Renewable Energy Program

- Web feature: <https://www.doi.gov/priorities/clean-energy-future>
- Recent offshore announcements
  - Approval of first offshore activity: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-approves-first-major-offshore-wind-project-us-waters>
  - Launch of first planning process off the coast of California: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-advances-offshore-wind-pacific>

I hope you have a good trip. It remains unlikely that she will sit for a second profile interview with the NYT, I will let you know if anything changes.

Thanks for bearing with me!

M

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 8:32 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Profile

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hi there! I am headed to New Mexico tomorrow for this. What would the secretary rank as her three biggest initiatives/accomplishments since taking on her role? Also since I have spoken with many many people is it possible to speak with her as well? We could do it when I get back but it seems a little odd to have her be silent in this. Thanks!

**From:** Coral Davenport  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: answer  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:52:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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OK - will go with that unless you say otherwise.

On Tue, Jul 27, 2021 at 5:13 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I think that's right

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:53 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: answer

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OK - Just wondering if there's any way to phrase it so we could use that more specific number. Like,

The number of scientists and technical experts at the United States Geological Survey, an agency of the Interior Department and one of the nation's premier climate-science research institutions, fell from 3,434 in 2016 to 3,152 in 2020, a loss of about 8 percent.

Or something like that? Is there a laymens' word that could be used to describe this?

On Tue, Jul 27, 2021 at 2:00 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

The long and short is that we don't have HR metrics broken down between principal scientific investigators and those who support scientific research. Here's the textbook definition of that Career Conditional classification.

We don't have an easy metric for quickly breaking down the portion of our employees that are directly engaged in science, especially since the mission of the whole agency is to support science. So I would just use the bigger column

---

### *Professional or Nonprofessional Series*

In some cases it may be difficult to differentiate between professional and technical work based solely on the assigned duties and responsibilities. This can be especially true among positions in the sciences or engineering where technicians carry out highly exacting tasks and complicated sequences of operation. To make the proper series determination, you must consider the characteristics of each kind of assignment.

Work classified to a professional series requires education and training in the principles, concepts, and theories of the occupation. Typically, these can be gained only through completion of a specified curriculum at a recognized college or university. This requirement is called a "positive education requirement" and is common to nearly all professional occupational series.

Professional work involves creativity, analysis, evaluation, and interpretation. It involves applying basic or natural law, principles, or theory; evaluating the research of others; and assessing the need for and validity of proposed changes and improvements in procedures and methods. Professional responsibility involves the ability to reason from existing knowledge to unexplored areas; to adapt methods to circumstances that deviate from the standards; and to stay abreast of and evaluate technical subjects, analyses, and proposals in professional literature.



Closely allied to professional work is work performed by nonprofessional support personnel. Their duties and responsibilities, especially at the higher levels, may appear very similar to those of professional employees in related kinds of work. Technical work, however, is normally planned and managed by professional employees. The technician carries out or implements plans or projects based on extensive experience and supplemental on-the-job training rather than on formal academic education in the discipline itself. Technical or nonprofessional work is performed typically in a narrow or highly specialized area of the overall occupation and requires a high degree of practical knowledge and skill. The experienced technician often works with considerable independence for significant periods of time. This

independence, however, does not alter the nature and character of the work, which is to support a professional discipline.

Positions can be considered professional only if the work *requires* application of professional knowledge and ability. *Neither the desirability of such qualifications nor the employee's possession of them is a factor in determining the series.*

Whenever there is a question of whether to classify a position in a professional or nonprofessional series, you must consider the following points that are common to all professional positions:

- the work requires application of professional knowledge and skills;
- management has decided that the work is to be performed following accepted professional methods and practices; and
- the employee in the position meets the professional qualification requirements for the occupation.

**NOTE:** All series that cover professional work are identified in the series definitions found in the [Handbook of Occupational Groups and Families](#).

--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times

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Washington, DC 20006

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--

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C 703-618-0645  
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**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: is there anyone you AREN'T calling?  
**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:02:55 PM

---

ok, i'm on cell - 703-618-0645

On Thu, Feb 18, 2021 at 11:58 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Putting out a small fire – will call you in 5

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:42 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: is there anyone you AREN'T calling?

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Yes! Can you talk tomorrow at noon?

On Wed, Feb 17, 2021 at 10:09 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

| My goodness you are thorough. Want to connect on the profile you're working on?

--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

1627 I St. NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20006

[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)

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--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com)  
**Cc:** [Kelly, Katherine P](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: let me know if you want to chat about the upcoming EO at any point tomorrow or in the coming days  
**Date:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:35:44 PM

---

## Onshore and offshore

Melissa Schwartz  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Robert Semple <[semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:23:07 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Katherine P <[Kate\\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: let me know if you want to chat about the upcoming EO at any point tomorrow or in the coming days  
That include the Gulf of Mexico? The order includes waters, too.

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 8:11 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Bob!

Sorry for my slip, the numbers I gave Kate include Indian lands. Federal land production for FY20 was 21.7%

Melissa Schwartz  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Kelly, Katherine P <[Kate\\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:04:46 PM  
**To:** [semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com) <[semple@nytimes.com](mailto:semple@nytimes.com)>  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: let me know if you want to chat about the upcoming EO at any point tomorrow or in the coming days  
Bob! I'm sorry for the delay! cc'ing Melissa, because she will be WAY better at responding in a timely matter.

YES - you're right; less than a third. Onshore + offshore production in FY20 accounted for 24.1% of U.S. production.

---

**From:** Robert Semple <[sample@nytimes.com](mailto:sample@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:49 PM

**To:** Kelly, Katherine P <[Kate\\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: let me know if you want to chat about the upcoming EO at any point tomorrow or in the coming days

Just checking to see whether I have the right email. Did you get this earlier message?  
thanks. bob

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

**From:** Robert Semple <[sample@nytimes.com](mailto:sample@nytimes.com)>

**Date:** Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 12:03 PM

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: let me know if you want to chat about the upcoming EO at any point tomorrow or in the coming days

**To:** Kelly, Katherine P <[Kate\\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov)>

Here's a quickie for you. How much — that is, what percentage — of US oil and gas production is produced on public lands and waters? I get different numbers but in total it seems less than one-third.  
thanks. bob

On Wed, Jan 27, 2021 at 11:24 AM Kelly, Katherine P <[Kate\\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)

she'll be happy to hear from you!

---

**From:** Robert Semple <[sample@nytimes.com](mailto:sample@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 11:16 AM

**To:** Kelly, Katherine P <[Kate\\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: let me know if you want to chat about the upcoming EO at any point tomorrow or in the coming days

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I probably will. Maybe even today! Do you have an email for Melissa!?' I'd like to congratulate her.

On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 9:51 PM Kelly, Katherine P <[Kate\\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Thanks, Bob!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/25/climate/biden-climate-change.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage>



## Biden Launches Climate Change Efforts - The New York Times

The likelihood that Congress can pass vast parts of Mr. Biden's \$2 trillion climate change agenda is only slightly greater now that Democrats hold the slimmest possible majority in a 50-50 Senate.

[www.nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)

Kate Kelly (she/hers)

Deputy Chief of Staff (Policy), Interior Department

[Kate\\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov) | 202.549.3198

**From:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: more contacts  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 12:02:22 AM

---

Fantastic. I'll ring her tomorrow. Thanks Melissa.

On Thu, May 6, 2021 at 9:25 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

She's game – and enthusiastic. Evenings are best (she's on west coast time):

Michelle Paulene Abeyta (goes by Paulene)

Cell: (b) (6)

[mpabeyta@email.arizona.edu](mailto:mpabeyta@email.arizona.edu)

---



**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 6:05 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: more contacts

someone please tell my editors!!!

Elizabeth Williamson

Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

On Wed, May 5, 2021 at 5:56 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
wrote:

We're not supposed to be traveling

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 5:55 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: more contacts

Thanks! Damn, bummed that it's virtual

Elizabeth Williamson

Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

On Wed, May 5, 2021 at 4:12 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
wrote:

I'm chasing her down. Also sharing this that I just cleared for the graduation (likely won't be released til Friday):

**U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland to Deliver Virtual Keynote for University of Arizona Law Convocation Ceremony**

Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Native American in history to serve as a cabinet secretary, will deliver the virtual keynote address at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers

College of Law 2021 convocation ceremony, May 11, 2021.

Graduating JD student Paulene Abeyta, who served as a volunteer and community organizer for Secretary Haaland during her congressional term, will provide the introduction.

The ceremony, including Secretary Haaland's pre-recorded remarks, will stream online at

[commencement.arizona.edu](https://commencement.arizona.edu).

Secretary Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, was one of the first Native American women to serve in Congress and was the first Native American woman to

lead a state political

party in the country. In Congress, she focused on environmental justice, climate change, veterans' issues, missing and murdered indigenous women, supporting Tribal issues, and family-friendly policies.

Secretary Haaland attended 13 public schools as a child raised in a military family before graduating from Highland High School in Albuquerque. At the age of 28, Secretary Haaland

enrolled at the University of New Mexico (UNM) where she earned a bachelor's degree in English and later earned her J.D. from UNM Law School. After law school, she ran her own salsa company, worked as a tribal administrator at San Felipe Pueblo and was appointed

the first woman to chair the Laguna Development Corporation, where she advocated for environmentally friendly policies and oversaw business operations of the second largest tribal gaming enterprise in New Mexico.

For details on Arizona Law's 2021 graduation ceremony, visit

[law.arizona.edu/graduation](http://law.arizona.edu/graduation).

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:53 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>



**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: more contacts

absolutely. just let me know when she's ready to chat. I'll respect the fact that she doesn't talk to reporters that often.

Elizabeth Williamson

Feature Writer



o: 202 862 0382

c: 202 674 2463

Follow me on Twitter: @NYTLiz

On Tue, May 4, 2021 at 11:38 AM Schwartz, Melissa A  
<[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

She is! But she's nervous and wants to talk. I'm working around her schedule today to hopefully talk to her and then she's all yours

---

**From:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:52 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: more contacts

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Hi Melissa! Is Paulene on board? Thanks!

On Fri, Apr 30, 2021 at 12:46 PM Schwartz, Melissa A  
<[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I thought this might be interesting to you:

<https://youtu.be/GwlqmsCq-fU?t=3698>

Have also included more individuals below who would be excellent resources. I'm connecting with Paulene shortly.

Mn Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

(b) (6)

(b)(6) Sean Oyaas

Sean is her political contact

Rep. Sharice Davids

COS Allison Teixeira

[Allison.teixeira@mail.house.gov](mailto:Allison.teixeira@mail.house.gov)

Dechellie Gray

(b) (6)

(b)(6) Dechellie Gray

Rachel Joseph



(b) (6)

(b)(6) Rachela Joseph

Crystal Echohawk

(b) (6)

[crystal@illuminatives.org](mailto:crystal@illuminatives.org)

**From:** [Robert Semple](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] small favor!  
**Date:** Sunday, February 21, 2021 8:50:05 PM

---

thank you so much!

On Sun, Feb 21, 2021 at 8:31 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Bob!

Looping Shannon here. As always, please keep me looped so I can keep an eye on ya

M

---

**From:** Robert Semple <[sample@nytimes.com](mailto:sample@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2021 12:16 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] small favor!

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Do you have an email for Shannon Estenoz? I gather she has joined or rejoined Interior to work on Everglades issues. She was a wonderful

help to me when I was writing on that subject and would like to catch up. I think we may have to light a fire under Congressional appropriators on that issue. Thank you.

**From:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**To:** [Mark Walker](#); [Interior Press](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Statement on Supreme Court ruling  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 4:32:36 PM

---

Hi Mark,  
Nothing from us on this. Thanks,  
Tyler Cherry  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(c) 202-549-2988

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**From:** Mark Walker <mark.walker@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 4:07 PM  
**To:** Interior Press <interior\_press@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Statement on Supreme Court ruling

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Good afternoon, my name is Mark Walker, a reporter with The New York Times. I'm checking to see if the Department has a statement to make on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Best,  
Mark

--

Mark Walker



Washington Bureau

202 862 0414 office

605 809 7369 mobile

[mark.walker@nytimes.com](mailto:mark.walker@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Still up for lunch at 1?  
**Date:** Friday, February 12, 2021 9:55:13 AM

---

Super!

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 9:37 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I may just grab caffeine but yes to meeting up at 1!

---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2021 9:24 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Still up for lunch at 1?

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--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times  
(202) 862-0306 office  
(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Friedman](#); [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Yes ty!  
**Date:** Friday, April 16, 2021 10:06:39 AM  
**Attachments:** [so\\_3398\\_508.pdf](#)  
[so\\_3399\\_508.pdf](#)

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The below and attached are all **embargoed until today, Friday 4/16 until 12pm eastern**. Let us know if you have any questions. Thanks Lisa!

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 12pm ET ON 4/16**

**Secretary Haaland Establishes Climate Task Force, Strengthens Scientific Integrity**

*New Orders Prioritize Department-Wide Climate Action, Revokes Orders That Are Out Of Alignment With Biden Administration Priorities*

**WASHINGTON** – Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland today issued two Secretarial Orders to prioritize action on climate change throughout the department and to restore transparency and integrity in the Department’s decision-making processes.

SO 3399 establishes a Climate Task Force to coordinate work across the Department, including accelerating renewable energy development and identifying actions to foster investments in energy communities. The Order also provides guidance on how science should be used in the decision-making process and improves transparency and public engagement in the Department’s decision-making process. The Order additionally provides policy instruction to ensure that the level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis across DOI bureaus is not diminished, that climate change is appropriately analyzed, and that Tribes and environmental justice communities are appropriately engaged.

"From Day One, President Biden was clear that we must take a whole-of-government approach to tackle the climate crisis, strengthen the economy, and address environmental justice," **said Interior Secretary Deb Haaland**. "At the Department of the Interior, I believe we have a unique opportunity to make our communities more resilient to climate change and to help lead the transition to a clean energy economy. These steps will align the Interior Department with the President’s priorities and better position the team to be a part of the climate solution."

Secretary Haaland also issued SO 3398, which revokes a series of Secretarial Orders issued in recent years that are inconsistent with the Department’s commitment to protect public health; conserve land, water, and wildlife; and elevate science. Collectively, the Orders unfairly tilted the balance of public land and ocean management toward extractive uses without regard for climate change, equity, or community engagement.

"I know that signing Secretarial Orders alone won’t address the urgency of the climate crisis. But I’m hopeful that these steps will help make clear that we, as a Department, have a mandate to act,"

**added Secretary Haaland**. "With the vast experience, talent, and ingenuity of our public servants at the Department of the Interior, I’m optimistic about what we can accomplish together to care for our natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations."

Previous Orders that were revoked include:

- [SO 3348 – “Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium”](#) (March 29, 2017)
- [SO 3349 – “American Energy Independence”](#) (March 29, 2017)
- [SO 3350 – “America-First Offshore Energy Strategy”](#) (May 1, 2017)



- [SO 3351 – “Strengthening the Department of the Interior's Energy Portfolio”](#) (May 1, 2017);
- [SO 3352 – “National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska”](#) (May 31, 2017)
- [SO 3354 – “Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program”](#) (Jul. 6, 2017)
- [SO 3355 - Streamlining National Environmental Policy Reviews and Implementation of Executive Order 13807, “Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects”](#) (Aug. 31, 2017)
- [SO 3358 – “Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting”](#) (Oct. 25, 2017)
- [SO 3360 – “Rescinding Authorities Inconsistent with Secretary's Order 3349, “American Energy Independence””](#) (Dec. 22, 2017)
- [SO 3380 – “Public Notice of the Costs Associated with Developing Department of the Interior Publications and Similar Documents”](#) (Mar. 10, 2020)
- [SO 3385 – “Enforcement Priorities”](#) (Sep. 14, 2020)
- [SO 3389 – “Coordinating and Clarifying National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Reviews”](#) (Dec. 22, 2020)

In addition, the Solicitor’s office issued a withdrawal of M-37062, an opinion that concluded that the Interior Secretary must promulgate a National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program consisting of a 5-year lease schedule with at least two lease sales during the five year plan. This withdrawal will allow the agency to evaluate its obligations under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA).

###

Tyler Cherry  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(c) 202-549-2988

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**From:** Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 10:00 AM

**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <tyler\_cherry@ios.doi.gov>; Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Yes ty!

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I have no idea where my editors are this morning but I’m sure they’ll say yes. Can you send along whatever you have? Especially if you can be specific about what Trump era orders this would revoke

that would be great.

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3398

**Subject:** Revocation of Secretary's Orders Inconsistent with Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis

**Sec. 1 Purpose.** This Order implements the review of the Department of the Interior (Department) actions directed by Executive Order (EO) 13990, entitled "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis" (January 20, 2021).

**Sec. 2 Authorities.** This Order is issued under the authority of section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended, and other applicable statutory authorities.

**Sec. 3 Background.** The Department's commitment to honor the Nation's trust responsibilities and conserve and manage the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage must be guided by the best science and be protected by processes that ensure the integrity of Federal decision making. It is Department policy to listen to the science; to address societal inequities and create opportunities for the American people; to conserve and restore our land, water, and wildlife; to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; to create jobs through a growing clean energy economy; and to bolster resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Among other provisions, EO 13990 directs the Department to review all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, and any other similar agency actions that are or may be inconsistent with, or present obstacles to, the policy set forth in that EO.

**Sec. 4 Directive.** The following Secretary's Orders (SO) have been found to be inconsistent with, or present obstacles to, the policy set forth in EO 13990 and are hereby revoked:

- SO 3348 – "Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium" (March 29, 2017);
- SO 3349 – "American Energy Independence" (March 29, 2017);
- SO 3350 – "America-First Offshore Energy Strategy" (May 1, 2017);
- SO 3351 – "Strengthening the Department of the Interior's Energy Portfolio" (May 1, 2017);
- SO 3352 – "National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska" (May 31, 2017);
- SO 3354 – "Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program" (July 6, 2017);

- SO 3355 – “Streamlining National Environmental Policy Reviews and Implementation of Executive Order 13807, ‘Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects’” (August 31, 2017);
- SO 3358 – “Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting” (October 25, 2017);
- SO 3360 – “Rescinding Authorities Inconsistent with Secretary's Order 3349, “American Energy Independence”” (December 22, 2017);
- SO 3380 – “Public Notice of the Costs Associated with Developing Department of the Interior Publications and Similar Documents” (March 10, 2020);
- SO 3385 – “Enforcement Priorities” (September 14, 2020); and
- SO 3389 – “Coordinating and Clarifying National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Reviews” (December 22, 2020).

**Sec. 5 Implementation.** Consistent with governing laws and regulations, I direct the following actions:

- a. The Department will review and revise as necessary all policies and instructions that implemented the above revoked SOs or that are otherwise inconsistent with the policies set forth in EO 13990.
- b. Within 60 days of the issuance of this Order, the Assistant Secretaries will submit to the Secretary a report listing each Bureau’s/Office’s policies, guidance documents, rules, or regulations that may warrant further action to be consistent with this Order and EO 13990. The report will include the Bureau’s/Office’s plan and timeline to reverse, amend or update those policies, guidance documents, rules, or regulations, and will provide recommendations regarding additional steps the Department may take to honor the Nation’s trust responsibilities and conserve and manage the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage consistent with this policy.

**Sec. 6 Effect of the Order.** This Order is intended to improve the internal management of the Department. This Order and any resulting report or recommendations are not intended to, and do not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officer or employees, or any other person. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control.

**Sec. 7 Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: **APR 16 2021**



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3399

**Subject:** Department-Wide Approach to the Climate Crisis and Restoring Transparency and Integrity to the Decision-Making Process

**Sec. 1 Purpose.** The Nation faces a profound climate crisis that requires the Department of the Interior (Department) to take a holistic approach to honor the Nation’s trust responsibilities; address the climate crisis; advance environmental justice; and build a clean energy future that creates good-paying jobs and powers our Nation. This Order prioritizes action on climate change and establishes a Departmental Climate Task Force. This Order also provides instruction on how science may be used in the decision-making process and clarifies Departmental policy to improve transparency to the public on the Department’s decision-making process.

**Sec. 2 Authorities.** This Order is issued under the authority of section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended. Other authorities for this Order include, but are not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347; Executive Order (EO) 12898, entitled “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations” (February 11, 1994); EO 13175, entitled “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments” (November 6, 2000); EO 13990, entitled “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis” (January 20 2021); and EO 14008, entitled “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (Jan. 27, 2021).

**Sec. 3 Background.** On January 20, 2021, President Biden issued EO 13990, entitled “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis.” Among other provisions, EO 13990 set out the importance of accounting for the benefits of reducing climate pollution and how “[a]n accurate social cost is essential for agencies to accurately determine the social benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions when conducting cost-benefit analyses of regulatory and other action.”<sup>1</sup>

President Biden also issued EO 14008, entitled “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (January 27, 2021), recognizing the profound climate crisis facing the Nation and the need to take a governmentwide approach to the climate crisis. A National Climate Task Force was established to facilitate the organization and deployment of such an approach.<sup>2</sup> Among other provisions, EO 14008 instructed Federal agencies to revitalize the Federal Government’s sustainability efforts by using its purchasing power to support climate action and increase renewable energy production as tools to help tackle climate change.<sup>3,4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> EO 13990, Sec. 5.

<sup>2</sup> EO 14008, Sec. 203.

<sup>3</sup> Id. at Sec. 207.

<sup>4</sup> Id. at Secs. 204 and 205.

The NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of proposed major Federal actions and to receive public input on those proposed actions to improve decision making, including ensuring that agencies adequately consider the climate change-related impacts of their actions. On July 16, 2020, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) published in the Federal Register its final rule to revise the NEPA regulations (2020 Rule), which went into effect on September 14, 2020.<sup>5</sup> Consistent with EO 13990, CEQ has begun a review of the 2020 Rule to, among other things, determine if the rule may adversely affect environmental justice communities, climate change or environmental quality.

**Sec. 4. Climate Task Force.** A Departmental Climate Task Force is hereby established in the Department. The Climate Task Force shall counsel the Secretary, who is a member of the National Climate Task Force. The Deputy Secretary and the Counselor to the Secretary will serve as cochair, and each Assistant Secretary will serve as a member. At the discretion of the cochair, the Climate Task Force may draw on separate Bureau/Office and Assistant Secretary representation, as appropriate, to concentrate on the climate crisis.

a. The Climate Task Force will develop a strategy to reduce climate pollution; improve and increase adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change; address current and historic environmental injustice; protect public health; and conserve Department-managed lands. Its mission will include the following:

- (1) identifying policies and/or revisions to existing policies or practices that are needed, and making recommendations on how climate change may be prioritized in policymaking and budget processes;
- (2) supporting the development and use of the best available science to evaluate the greenhouse gas emissions and associated climate change impacts of Federal land uses as well as opportunities to increase carbon sequestration; to predict the effects of climate change on public lands and land uses; and to assess and adopt measures to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of public lands;
- (3) implementing the review and reconsideration of Federal oil and gas leasing and permitting practices in light of the Department's broad stewardship responsibilities over the public lands and in offshore waters;
- (4) prioritizing and accelerating the permitting and appropriate environmental review of renewable energy projects, including associated transmission rights-of-way to deliver renewable energy, on Department-managed lands and the Outer Continental Shelf;
- (5) identifying policies and actions to foster economic revitalization of, and investment in, energy communities through coordination with the Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization established by EO 14008, including supporting the reclamation of abandoned mine lands and the cleanup of orphan oil and gas wells;
- (6) identifying policies and action to address current and historic environmental injustice to address the disproportionately high and adverse human health,

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<sup>5</sup> 85 Fed. Reg. 43304-43376; 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508 (July 16, 2020).

environmental, and climate-related and other cumulative impacts on disadvantaged communities through coordination with the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council established by EO 14008;

- (7) identifying clear roles and processes for each Bureau/Office;
- (8) working with individual States, Tribes, local governments, environmental justice communities, and other interested stakeholders on these matters; and
- (9) recommending such other actions as may be necessary to fulfill the goals of this Order.

b. Program Assistant Secretaries. Program Assistant Secretaries serve as members of the Climate Task Force and are responsible for:

- (1) establishing and participating in management structures that facilitate cooperation, reporting, and accountability across agencies, including the Climate Task Force; and
- (2) working collaboratively with other Departments, States, Tribes, and local authorities to coordinate and harmonize Federal and non-Federal actions.

c. Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget. The Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget is a member of the Climate Task Force and will:

- (1) ensure that investments associated with Department-managed facilities meet the Federal standards for energy efficiency and greening applications; and
- (2) prioritize action on climate change in budget processes and in contracting and procurement policies, including the purchase and use of clean and zero-emission vehicles.

d. Bureau/Office Heads. Each Bureau/Office head is responsible for ensuring implementation of the policies and actions identified by the Climate Task Force.

**Sec. 5 Utilizing the NEPA Process to Restore Transparency and Integrity to the Decision-Making Process.** The NEPA process can support the Department’s policy to listen to science; to improve public health and protect the environment; to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; to bolster resilience to the impacts of climate change; and to prioritize environmental justice. In order to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Department’s policies in analysis conducted pursuant to NEPA, this order requires all Bureaus/Offices to utilize science and enhance opportunities for Tribal and environmental justice community engagement in the NEPA and decision-making process.

a. Applying NEPA. Bureaus/Offices will not apply the 2020 Rule in a manner that would change the application or level of NEPA that would have been applied to a proposed action before the 2020 Rule went into effect on September 14, 2020. Bureaus/Offices will continue to follow the Department’s NEPA regulations at 43 C.F.R. Part 46, Department Manual procedures (516 DM Ch. 1-15), and guidance and instruction from the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. If Bureaus/Offices believe that the Department’s

NEPA regulations irreconcilably conflict with the 2020 Rule, they will elevate issues to the relevant Assistant Secretary and to CEQ.

b. Consideration of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change impacts.

Identifying important interactions between a changing climate and the environmental impacts of a proposed action in NEPA documents can help decision makers identify opportunities to reduce GHG emissions, improve environmental outcomes, and contribute to protecting communities from the climate crisis.

When considering the impact of GHG emissions from a proposed action, Bureaus/Offices should use appropriate tools, methodologies, and resources available to quantify GHG emissions and compare GHG quantities across alternatives. When quantifying GHG emissions is not possible because tools, methodologies, or data inputs are not reasonably available, Bureaus/Offices will provide a qualitative analysis and the rationale for determining that a quantitative analysis is not warranted.

The social cost of carbon (SCC), “social cost of nitrous oxide” (SCN), and “social cost of methane” (SCM)—together, the “social cost of greenhouse gases” (SC-GHG)—are estimates in dollars of the long-term damage done by these GHGs in a given year. Estimates of SC-GHG can be a useful measure to assess the climate impacts of GHG emission changes for Federal proposed actions, in addition to rulemakings. For instance, when a Bureau/Office determines that a monetized assessment of socioeconomic impacts is relevant, the SC-GHG protocol is an essential tool to quantify the costs and benefits associated with a proposed action’s GHG emissions and relevant to the choice among different alternatives being considered. The Climate Task Force will work in coordination with representatives on the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases as additional guidance is developed regarding the application of SC-GHG to decision making, budgeting, and procurement by the Federal Government.

c. Tribal Consultation and Environmental Justice Engagement in NEPA. In conducting NEPA analyses, Bureaus/Offices must consider impacts on both the natural or physical environment as well as social, cultural, and economic impacts. Historically, many Federal agencies have not consistently obtained Tribal input or coordinated with Tribes to integrate Tribal concerns into the decision-making process. Tribal consultation is a means to rectify this by recognizing the government-to-government relationship and considering Tribal interests in decision making.

Minority and low-income communities across the country are disproportionately exposed to industrial, waste-disposal, or other facilities that emit harmful air pollution. Environmental justice seeks to address the disproportionately high health and environmental risks found among low-income and minority communities by seeking their fair treatment and involvement in decision making.

Bureaus/Offices will proactively begin consultation with potentially impacted Tribes, both those currently in the proposed area and those with a historic presence, as well as engage potentially impacted environmental justice communities early in the project planning process. “Early in the project planning process” includes when a Bureau/Office has enough information on a proposed action to determine that an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement will be prepared.



Sec. 6 **Implementation.** The Deputy Secretary is responsible for ensuring implementation of this Order. This responsibility may be delegated, as appropriate.

Sec. 7 **Effect of the Order.** This Order is intended to improve the internal management of the Department. This Order and any resulting report or recommendations are not intended to, and do not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officer or employees, or any other person. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control.

Sec. 8 **Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: **APR 16 2021**

**From:** [Henry Fountain](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 12:01:46 PM

---

great, hope you can send it soon. thanks.

Henry Fountain  
Climate reporter, [The New York Times](#)  
New Mexico, USA  
914.584.0371 [fountain@nytimes.com](mailto:fountain@nytimes.com)

On Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 9:53 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Henry – it's in the Federal Register this morning. Release coming any minute...

---

**From:** Henry Fountain <[fountain@nytimes.com](mailto:fountain@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 11:50 AM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

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Hi

I'm hearing that Interior will file a notice of intent tomorrow to undertake a new environmental review of oil development in the 1006 Area of ANWR. I'm going to do a short item about it. Do you all have more details/comment etc.? Thanks

Henry Fountain

Climate reporter, [The New York Times](#)

New Mexico, USA

914.584.0371 [fountain@nytimes.com](mailto:fountain@nytimes.com)

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Williamson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: I know you are annoyed at me  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 9:18:57 AM

---

The Secretary asked me to pass on her appreciation and gratitude that you traveled to speak with Pueblo women. She pointed out that while Mom was in the Navy, her Dad was in the Marines. She wondered if your editors could change that online.

Thanks

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](#)

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**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 9:06:11 AM  
**To:** Elizabeth Williamson <[elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com](mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com)>  
**Subject:** I know you are annoyed at me  
But I just wanted to say that I thought the profile turned out really lovely. I hope you are happy with it.

M

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](#)

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Yes ty!  
**Date:** Friday, April 16, 2021 10:10:50 AM

---

super many thanks

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 10:06 AM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

The below and attached are all **embargoed until today, Friday 4/16 until 12pm eastern**. Let us know if you have any questions. Thanks Lisa!

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 12pm ET ON 4/16**

**Secretary Haaland Establishes Climate Task Force, Strengthens Scientific Integrity**

*New Orders Prioritize Department-Wide Climate Action, Revokes Orders That Are Out Of Alignment With Biden Administration Priorities*

**WASHINGTON** – Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland today issued two Secretarial Orders to prioritize action on climate change throughout the department and to restore transparency and integrity in the Department’s decision-making processes.

SO 3399 establishes a Climate Task Force to coordinate work across the Department, including accelerating renewable energy development and identifying actions to foster investments in energy communities. The Order also provides guidance on how science should be used in the decision-making process and improves transparency and public engagement in the Department’s decision-making process. The Order additionally provides policy instruction to ensure that the level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis across DOI bureaus is not diminished, that climate change is appropriately analyzed, and that Tribes and environmental justice communities are appropriately engaged.

"From Day One, President Biden was clear that we must take a whole-of-government approach to tackle the climate crisis, strengthen the economy, and address environmental justice," **said Interior Secretary Deb Haaland**. "At the Department of the Interior, I believe we have a unique opportunity to make our communities more resilient to climate change and to help lead the transition to a clean energy economy. These steps will align the Interior Department with the President’s priorities and better position the team to be a part of the climate solution."

Secretary Haaland also issued SO 3398, which revokes a series of Secretarial Orders issued in recent years that are inconsistent with the Department’s commitment to protect public health; conserve land, water, and wildlife; and elevate science. Collectively, the Orders unfairly tilted the balance of public land and ocean management toward extractive uses without regard for climate change, equity, or community engagement.

"I know that signing Secretarial Orders alone won’t address the urgency of the climate crisis. But I’m hopeful that these steps will help make clear that we, as a Department, have a

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] a Q from today's EO  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:25:57 PM

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Today's EO "directs federal agencies to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies **as consistent with applicable law.**"

So: this is something that could be done without Congress? What is your understanding of what this referring to? Something agencies could do on a limited basis? Something Interior would do re: royalties and other fees?

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**Subject:** Story on renewable energy development  
**Date:** Friday, April 30, 2021 6:49:35 PM

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Veronica,

I'm so sorry to pipe in late on a Friday night but I'm digging out of my inbox and realizing that you have an outstanding request to the Bureau of Land Management that I believe Tyler Cherry was in contact with you on. Tyler is out of the office for a few days so I am trying to make sure I'm covering my bases.

Did you and Tyler speak about you connecting with additional members of our staff? I know you had some specific questions for BLM but would love the opportunity to put a member of our leadership on the phone with you on background to talk through the Biden-Harris Administration's goals and how we at Interior are working to accelerate renewable energy development and create new clean energy jobs.

Have we missed the boat there or would it be possible to connect on Monday? Thanks so much and again apologies.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

**From:** [Veronica Penney](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Story on renewable energy development  
**Date:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:06:57 PM

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Hi Melissa,

Thank you for following up. Tyler and I were able to connect regarding my initial questions. I'm meeting with my editor tomorrow to talk about this story, so I'll have a better sense of what information I still need following that meeting.

Best,  
Veronica

On Mon, May 3, 2021 at 5:56 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey there – I wanted to follow up on this and also make sure you saw today's news:  
<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-approves-solar-energy-project-california-desert>

We have another announcement coming up, please let me know if we can connect!

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 6:50 PM  
**To:** [veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Story on renewable energy development

Veronica,

I'm so sorry to pipe in late on a Friday night but I'm digging out of my inbox and realizing that you have an outstanding request to the Bureau of Land Management that I believe Tyler Cherry was in contact with you on. Tyler is out of the office for a few days so I am trying to make sure I'm covering my bases.

Did you and Tyler speak about you connecting with additional members of our staff? I know you had some specific questions for BLM but would love the opportunity to put a member of our leadership on the phone with you on background to talk through the Biden-Harris Administration's goals and how we at Interior are working to accelerate renewable energy development and create new clean energy jobs.

Have we missed the boat there or would it be possible to connect on Monday? Thanks so much and again apologies.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)



**From:** [Michael Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re:  
**Date:** Monday, August 16, 2021 4:25:00 PM

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hey just circling back with you on this. many thanks

On Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 1:49 PM Michael Schmidt <[schmidt@nytimes.com](mailto:schmidt@nytimes.com)> wrote:

Tyler: Below are three questions I have for the Department of Interior. Many thanks, Mike Schmidt

In May 2017, the Trump White House received three furs that, based on their description by the State Department in an August 2017 FOIA [<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3986197-TrumpSaudi-Gifts>], are Appendix I protected under the Endangered Species Act. (From the list: 4. Orange and gold wool robe lined with cheetah fur 5. Blue and silver wool robe lined with white tiger fur 36. Purple wool robe with white tiger fur lining). Under typical gifts protocol, gifts that are covered by the Endangered Species Act are supposed to be sent by the accepting agency [in this case the Trump White House] to the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service for proper disposal. Based on your previous response, Fish and Wildlife Service never received the fur. I have since learned from the GSA that it received the furs from the Trump White House on Jan. 19, 2021. As of mid-July, Fish and Wildlife Service had not received these furs, meaning that they have been unaccounted for for three plus years. Three questions:

1. It's my understanding that to import and be in possession of Endangered Species Act protected furs you need a license from Fish and Wildlife Service. Was a license ever given for the three furs in question?
2. In the Department of Interior's response to me in July, it said that it did not have the furs in question or know anything about them. Has the department since learned anything about the furs?
3. Does the Department of Interior and Fish and Wildlife Service have any concerns about how these furs were handled? It's the job of Fish and Wildlife Service and the Justice Department to enforce the Endangered Species Act. Yet, these protected furs were given to a White House and went unaccounted for for more than three years. Is that how the system is supposed to work?

**From:** [Michael Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] US Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Date:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:49:09 AM

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great. take your time but don't take too much time. how much time do you need?

On Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 10:45 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey Schmidt! What's your deadline on this? Lots to unpack

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**From:** Michael Schmidt <[schmidtm@nytimes.com](mailto:schmidtm@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:20 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] US Fish and Wildlife Service

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Melissa and Tyler: We're moving forward with some reporting related to gifts that were given to the United States government in 2017 by foreign governments. Below is our understanding of the role that the Department of Interior, and its agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, are supposed to play in dealing with gifts, and what occurred in the matter that we're looking into. Many thanks

Michael S. Schmidt

o.202.862.0356

c.804.363.6794

1. Under the Constitution (Article I, Section 9, Clause 8), all federal employees – including the president and vice president – are prohibited from receiving gifts from foreign countries without consent from Congress. Gifts given by foreign governments to federal employees – including the president – are considered government property. Federal employees – including the president – can keep gifts that are under a benchmark set by the G.S.A.

[<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/41/102-42.10>] From January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2020 that number was \$390. [<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/17/2020-05375/revision-to-foreign-gift-minimal-value>]. All gifts over \$390 received by federal employees are supposed to be published once a year in the Federal Register by the State Department's office of protocol. [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2011-title5/html/USCODE-2011-title5-partIII-subpartF-chap73-subchapIV-sec7342.htm>]. Federal employees can purchase those gifts over the benchmark set by the G.S.A., which also handles the sale of the gifts. Those gifts that are not purchased are dealt with in one of two ways. If they are gifts given to anyone in the first or second families, the gifts are sent to the National Archives. All other unpurchased gifts are supposed to be disposed of by the G.S.A.

On foreign trips, the Department of State is supposed to have someone from their protocol office traveling with the White House to oversee how gifts are exchanged and received. The protocol office is supposed to log all the gifts received. Those gifts given to White House personnel are then supposed to be transferred to the White House gift unit. The White House gift unit is then supposed to appraise the gifts. If the gifts are under the GSA threshold, they may be kept. If they are above the threshold, the gifts are government property.

Government agencies and departments – including the White House – are required once a year to provide the State Department's office of protocol with a list of gifts received from foreign governments that exceed the G.S.A. threshold. Once a year, the State Department's office of protocol publishes a list of those gifts in the Federal Register.

At times, executive branch employees -- including the president -- will receive gifts that are covered by the Endangered Species Act. In those cases, the gifts are supposed to be sent to Fish and Wildlife Services. Fish and Wildlife Services Office of Law Enforcement is supposed to take the lead in handling materials covered by the Endangered Species Act. When the agency obtains material covered by the Endangered Species Act it typically takes the material to one of two places: the agency's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, where gifts given to presidents or other high level American government officials are housed in a room; or the National Wildlife Property Repository, a 22,000 square foot office and warehouse in Denver, Colorado, where seized evidence and other materials obtained by the agency that violate the Endangered Species Act are held and ultimately sold, destroyed or used as educational materials in places like schools or museums.

#### Question

a. Is our understanding of the Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service role in gifts accurate?

2. Below is our understanding of what happened – or did not happen – to three furs that the Trump White House received on a trip to Saudi Arabia in 2017.

In August 2017, the State Department released this document in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. [<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3986197-TrumpSaudi-Gifts>]. The document listed 83 gifts the Trump White House received during Trump's May 2017 trip to the kingdom. The document listed three furs (4. Orange and gold wool robe lined with cheetah fur 5. Blue and silver wool robe lined with white tiger fur 36. Purple wool robe with white tiger fur lining) and six daggers or swords (41. Dagger made of pure silver with mother of pearl sheath and various designs 54. One large sword, a dagger, a

leather ammo holder and holster 77. Large box containing dagger, sword, ammo holder, and holster 78. Sword).

Aside from the list produced by State in August 2017, these gifts are unaccounted for. They never appeared in any of the annual State Department office of protocol filings in the Federal Register that are supposed to be produced for gifts over the G.S.A. threshold. Through our reporting, we've learned that the National Archives does not have the furs, swords or daggers in question. The National Archives has long taken the position that it does not accept gifts that could be protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Instead, the National Archives has long taken the position that possession of such gifts potentially violates the Endangered Species Act and such materials need to be transferred to the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to dispose of them. Through our reporting we've learned that Fish and Wildlife never received the furs.

It is our understanding that under the Endangered Species Act both white tiger fur and cheetah fur are on Appendix I under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. This means that it is illegal to import, or have in possession, these furs without a license. To obtain such a permit an individual would need to apply to the Fish and Wildlife Service and prove that the furs were legally obtained.

The G.S.A., in response to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by the Times in March, provided us in May with a list of all the gifts over its threshold that were purchased during the Obama and Trump administration's. [That document is attached]. The furs were not on the list.

Questions:

- a. Is the Department of Interior or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in possession of the furs?
- b. Does the Department of Interior or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have any information on what happened to the furs?
- c. Were any materials that violated the Endangered Species Act that were given to Trump administration officials sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the Trump administration?
- d. How many furs or other materials that violated the Endangered Species Act were sent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the Obama administration?

3. This is our understanding of the penalties someone could face if they are in possession of materials from an Appendix I animal.

Typically, Under the Endangered Species Act, those caught with such materials without a permit are fined \$25,000 as a civil penalty. Some cases are criminally prosecuted and you can be fined \$50,000 and face up to five years in prison. If your furs have been obtained illegally, you can be held liable for violating the Lacey Act and can be fined \$250,000 and face up to five years in prison.

Question:

- a. Is our understanding of potential penalties correct?

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Willow follow up question  
**Date:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 9:33:38 AM

---

ok ty

On Thu, May 27, 2021 at 9:29 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

We are not aware of any removal from the list but that is a White House question. Nothing further for you

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 9:23:32 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Willow follow up question

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Hi guys hope you're well. We're updating the Willow story later today with some things and I wanted to see if I can get a comment on something specific:

I see Secretary Haaland [signed a letter](#) not too long ago opposing the Willow project. Can you explain to me how her reasoning changed and why?

Additionally - I have heard now a couple times that Willow has been removed from the list of projects that went out with the climate EO on Jan. 27 that will come under renewed review. Can you tell me definitively if that is accurate or not?

Thanks - if it's possible to get something by noon that would be great.  
best  
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times  
(202) 862-0306 office  
(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times  
(202) 862-0306 office  
(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Here is my question  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 1:57:13 PM

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It looks like the Trump administration first identified these same areas for leases. How is this different?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/19/business/energy-environment/california-coast-wind-farms.html>

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
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[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter [@CoralMDavenport](#)



**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Cc:** [Patel, Vedant R. EOP/WHO](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] A federal judge in Louisiana has blocked the administration's suspension of oil and gas leases  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:24:02 PM

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Interior spok. Sorry bout that. Paraphrase however you need but no name. Thanks

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](#)

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 6:49:33 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Patel, Vedant R. EOP/WHO (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] A federal judge in Louisiana has blocked the administration's suspension of oil and gas leases  
Thanks, Melissa. Attributable to you, Melissa, by name? We cannot quote a nameless "spokesperson" in quotes.

On Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 6:47 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

On the record from an Interior spokesperson:

"We are reviewing the judge's opinion and will comply with the decision. The Interior Department continues to work on an interim report that will include initial findings on the state of the federal conventional energy programs, as well as outline next steps and recommendations for the Department and Congress to improve stewardship of public lands and waters, create jobs, and build a just and equitable energy future."

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](#)

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**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 6:43:35 PM  
**To:** Patel, Vedant R. EOP/WHO (b) (6) Schwartz, Melissa A  
<[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A federal judge in Louisiana has blocked the administration's suspension of oil and gas leases

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Can you guys send comment?

Also, if you have the ruling itself, can you send?  
tks!

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

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Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
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Washington, DC 20006  
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C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] a Q from today's EO  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:54:07 PM

---

That's a WH question, not us

Melissa Schwartz  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:51:31 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] a Q from today's EO  
Ok, but what exactly does this refer to?  
"directs federal agencies to \*eliminate fossil fuel subsidies as consistent with applicable law\*" royalties? fees?

On Wed, Jan 27, 2021 at 12:39 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

What big thing? There is a pause on new leasing until we do a review. That's literally it.

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:32 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] a Q from today's EO

Ok, I'm just really trying to understand so that I can explain this clearly to our readers. Our editors think this is some big thing, like ending tax breaks for oil developers, which obviously can't be done without Congress. But I am I correct in understanding that this is a part of the pause on leases? I'm about to start the briefing but can someone get on the phone with me afterwards to help me clearly understand this so I can write it accurately?

On Wed, Jan 27, 2021 at 12:28 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Off the record: it's legalese. That language is a reference to the broad discretion of the Secretary to act in accordance with applicable laws. There is a pause, period.

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:25 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] a Q from today's EO

---

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Today's EO "directs federal agencies to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies **as consistent with applicable law.**"

So: this is something that could be done without Congress? What is your understanding of what this referring to? Something agencies could do on a limited basis? Something Interior would do re: royalties and other fees?

--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

The New York Times

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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Chatting with Dave Applegate  
**Date:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 3:48:43 PM

---

Sure

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](#)

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 1:47:51 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Chatting with Dave Applegate  
Thank you. Attributable to you?

On Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 3:34 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Thanks but we're going to decline. If you need:

The President's budget request will enable USGS to rebuild its workforce so that they can thrive in the future.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](#)

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 9:56:11 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Chatting with Dave Applegate

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Hey, there - we are working on a story about how agencies where scientists left during the past administration are working on recovering and building back capacity. Would love to speak w. Dave Applegate at USGS about this. Could he chat today or tomorrow?

Cheers,  
cd

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
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--

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O 202-862-0359  
C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Michael Shear](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] fun story  
**Date:** Saturday, February 20, 2021 10:46:00 AM

---

And honestly – you can use that other story if it's more interesting

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2021 8:53 AM  
**To:** Michael Shear <[Michael.Shear@nytimes.com](mailto:Michael.Shear@nytimes.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] fun story

You too

Melissa Schwartz  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
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Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Michael Shear <[Michael.Shear@nytimes.com](mailto:Michael.Shear@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2021 8:51:48 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] fun story

Perfect. Thanks so much.

Have a good weekend.

On Sat, Feb 20, 2021 at 8:51 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Ah ok, just wanted to check. How's this:

"The words we choose are critical and set the tone, whether it's press releases or social media or all-staff messages. The Biden administration has encouraged the centering of voices that are not always heard. At Interior that means not just acknowledging the disproportionate impact that the climate crisis is having on communities of color and Indigenous peoples but an embrace of the science and solutions that will help us tackle it."

---

**From:** Michael Shear <[Michael.Shear@nytimes.com](mailto:Michael.Shear@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2021 8:40 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] fun story

I already have Psaki on the record already. But my editor wants someone from an agency too. I like the BLM examples, so I thought you might be game. No pressure tho.

On Sat, Feb 20, 2021 at 8:37 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Who not someone from the White House? Or one of the agencies with better examples (DHS?)

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---



**From:** Michael Shear <[Michael.Shear@nytimes.com](mailto:Michael.Shear@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2021 8:08:48 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] fun story

Good morning.

My editors would really like a quote about how words matter and it's important to reflect the new president's philosophy or something like that. Any chance I could get you to send me something on the record this morning? Story may run tomorrow.

Thanks.

Mike.

On Thu, Feb 18, 2021 at 11:01 AM Michael Shear <[Michael.Shear@nytimes.com](mailto:Michael.Shear@nytimes.com)> wrote:

nice. thanks

On Feb 18, 2021 at 11:00:09 AM, Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Yes, changed retroactively

---

**From:** Michael Shear <[Michael.Shear@nytimes.com](mailto:Michael.Shear@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:59 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] fun story

Hey there.

One question on the boilerplate language at the bottom of the news releases.

When I go on the website and look at releases from last year, it seems to have the same language. Did you guys just tweak the website so it puts it on retroactively? Just making sure it wasn't there during trump...

On Feb 16, 2021 at 4:36:01 PM, Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

FWIW: According to a source on the call, Interior's Director of Communications Melissa Schwartz used her first call with agency communications on January 21 to clarify: "Climate change is real and science is back and you should feel free to talk about both in your press releases. I release you!"

Here's that list:

- New USGS [study](#) on elkhorn coral restoration efforts mentioned climate change as driver of coral bleaching
- USGS released an [analysis](#) showing no recoverable oil deposits in rock formations west of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (and we allowed it to go out after it sat)
- Interior's first [blog](#) was all about the impacts of climate change and Interior's work toward a clean energy future

- BLM [restored](#) boilerplate language at the bottom of all of its news releases noting that a major part of BLM's mission is to conserve public lands for future generations.
- BLM changing their [webpage](#) from coal to landscape
- BOEM [resuming](#) the environmental review of Vineyard Wind's proposed offshore wind project mentions climate change as a priority for administration

---

**From:** Michael Shear <[Michael.Shear@nytimes.com](mailto:Michael.Shear@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 2:29 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] fun story

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Hey Melissa

Mike Shear here. I'm working on a fun story about the use of language by the government. If you have a minute, could you give me a holler?

thank

mike

--

Michael D. Shear

White House Correspondent

The New York Times

[michael.shear@nytimes.com](mailto:michael.shear@nytimes.com)

202-681-0415 (mobile/signal)

--

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White House Correspondent

The New York Times

[michael.shear@nytimes.com](mailto:michael.shear@nytimes.com)

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White House Correspondent  
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202-681-0415 (mobile/signal)

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] I understand that there is some news coming out about ESA today  
**Date:** Friday, June 4, 2021 10:50:00 AM

---

Very helpful, much appreciated.

On Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 10:48 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

OTR, identifying the Trump rules that undermined ESA that are being rescinded, reviewed or revised

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
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---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 10:38:35 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] I understand that there is some news coming out about ESA today  
ok. I'm mainly just trying to understand if it's news for us. At first blush it does not seem to be (although your friends in ESA world perhaps do not agree) but just want to make sure I have a clear understanding, which I do not. Could you help explain the gist OTR for my understanding?

On Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 10:35 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Subject of litigation, will make sure FWS knows to include you. It's complicated

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
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---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 10:33:37 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I understand that there is some news coming out about ESA today

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And I am trying to understand it more clearly. Would you mind giving a call to help talk me through this on background?

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
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1627 I St. NW, Suite 700  
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**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#); [Patel, Vedant R. EOP/WHO](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] lease sales in these areas  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:47:00 PM

---

We did not. Her answer stands for us: we don't want to pre-judge the process.

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <coral.davenport@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:42 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>; Patel, Vedant R. EOP/WHO  
**(b) (6)**  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] lease sales in these areas

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When asked when lease sales would happen, Haaland did not give a year. But politico pro is reporting that "administratoin officials" said that lease sales would happen in 2022. Did i miss something? Who said this?

--

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**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Veronica Penney](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#); [Rocco, Giovanni P](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Story on renewable energy development  
**Date:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:33:00 PM

---

Thanks so much – we're here when you're ready

---

**From:** Veronica Penney <veronica.penney@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:06 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <tyler\_cherry@ios.doi.gov>; Rocco, Giovanni P <giovanni\_rocco@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Story on renewable energy development

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Hi Melissa,

Thank you for following up. Tyler and I were able to connect regarding my initial questions. I'm meeting with my editor tomorrow to talk about this story, so I'll have a better sense of what information I still need following that meeting.

Best,

Veronica

On Mon, May 3, 2021 at 5:56 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey there – I wanted to follow up on this and also make sure you saw today's news:

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-approves-solar-energy-project-california-desert>

We have another announcement coming up, please let me know if we can connect!

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 6:50 PM  
**To:** [veronica.penney@nytimes.com](mailto:veronica.penney@nytimes.com)  
**Cc:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Rocco, Giovanni P <[giovanni\\_rocco@ios.doi.gov](mailto:giovanni_rocco@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Story on renewable energy development

Veronica,

I'm so sorry to pipe in late on a Friday night but I'm digging out of my inbox and realizing that you have an outstanding request to the Bureau of Land Management that I believe Tyler Cherry was in contact with you on. Tyler is out of the office for a few days so I am trying to make sure I'm covering my bases.

Did you and Tyler speak about you connecting with additional members of our staff? I know you had some specific questions for BLM but would love the opportunity to put a member of our leadership on the phone with you on background to talk through the Biden-Harris Administration's goals and how we at Interior are working to accelerate renewable energy development and create new clean energy jobs.

Have we missed the boat there or would it be possible to connect on Monday? Thanks so much and again apologies.

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)



**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Separately - Enbridge Line 3  
**Date:** Friday, June 4, 2021 3:46:00 PM

---

I don't have anything major on my radar screen

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 1:11 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Separately - Enbridge Line 3

OK. Separately - is there something coming on Tongass and/or Roadless Rule?

On Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 12:18 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

That is not what I said. I said we have no comment.

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 11:49 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Separately - Enbridge Line 3

She's not going to use her clout with the President to help make the case for this push by Native and climate activists?

On Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 11:45 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

We have nothing on this  
Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 11:17:57 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Separately - Enbridge Line 3

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Separately - Native activists and lawyers have met with members of the administration, including Gina McCarthy and David Hayes, to make the case for the administration denying permits to build the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline. Many of the activists are those who protested the Dakota Access pipeline. Has Secretary Haaland met with - either in person or online - or spoken with - any of those activists, who include her colleagues from the Dakota protests? Although it is the Army Corps, rather than Interior, that has the final say on the Enbridge permit, the Secretary, as a member of the Cabinet, has an influential voice in this outcome. Has she spoken to the President about it? What are her thoughts on it? Could she talk about it?

thanks so much,  
cd

--

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C 703-618-0645  
Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] sigh  
**Date:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 12:43:00 PM

---

I got nuthin, sorry

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] sigh

ugh. ok.

Can you confirm on background that these facts are accurate?

that she planned a 50-person indoor party to celebrate Haaland's inauguration, that the White House ordered the party cancelled, and that she is now stepping down from position as CoS and moving to a position as a senior counselor at the agency?

I assure you that this is not how I had hoped and dreamed to spend my Thursday afternoon either  
On Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 12:25 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Uh huh. We have no comment

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 12:24 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] sigh

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can you please confirm and send comment on this Jennifer Van der Heide thing and ideally give a call to help explain/talk it through on background?

703-618-0645

--

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Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
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Twitter @CoralMDavenport

--

Coral Davenport

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The New York Times

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**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] The 2017 tax law requires a second lease sale  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 1:27:00 PM

---

Tried you

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 1:08 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] The 2017 tax law requires a second lease sale  
Great. Could you give a call soon? As of right now the story has no comment from Interior.  
On Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 11:33 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

You are correct that the Tax Act requires a second lease sale. We have no update on timing or details.

I will call you

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 11:25 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The 2017 tax law requires a second lease sale

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We are writing a follow-up story getting into this and what that law will mean. It looks like it means you have to have a second lease sale by the end of 2024. So...will that happen? Are there ways for the administration to slow-walk or get around it, if that's what it wants? Could you talk about this or put me on the phone w a staffer who can guide me through it? Background fine I just want to really understand it.

on deadline for now, alas,

tk,

cd

--

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**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Michael Schmidt](#); [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] US Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:49:42 PM

---

I think we may have gotten all the info we can get outta folks, so hopefully this helps :)

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Michael Schmidt <[schmidtm@nytimes.com](mailto:schmidtm@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:41:54 PM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] US Fish and Wildlife Service

Thanks much for this. Will follow up with you if I have any questions. Thnx again

On Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 9:19 AM Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Michael,

Sending you back some responses that hopefully help in your search. Let us know if you need anything else.

- a. Is the Department of Interior or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in possession of the furs?
  - a. **NO**
- b. Does the Department of Interior or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have any information on what happened to the furs?
  - a. **NO**
- c. Were any materials that violated the Endangered Species Act that were given to Trump administration officials sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the Trump administration?
  - a. **NO**
- d. How many furs or other materials that violated the Endangered Species Act were sent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the Obama administration?
  - a. **On background: It would take considerable time and person-power to get exact numbers, but several items were turned over by the WH, State Department, and Department of Defense during both the Obama and Bush administrations.**

3. This is our understanding of the penalties someone could face if they are in possession of materials from an Appendix I animal. Is our understanding of potential penalties correct?

**All on background:** The statements regarding penalties are incorrect. And anything regarding DOJ enforcement, I would check in with them too if you haven't already.

First, the maximum civil penalties under the ESA are updated annually for inflation and can be found in 50 CFR 11.34. Since they are updated annually, the violation date has to be used to verify what the maximum penalty would be because it increases every year. Since these gifts were given in 2017, we would look at the FR rule for that year, 82 FR 6307, which went into effect on January 19, 2017. The max civil penalties under the ESA for that year were as follows:

(c) Endangered Species Act of 1973	<a href="#">16 U.S.C. 1540(a)(1)</a>	(1) Knowing violation of section 1538	50,276
		(2) Other knowing violation	24,132
		(3) Any other violation	1,270

However, FWS does not typically issue civil penalties at the maximum allowed amount, so it is incorrect both to say FWS typically fines violators \$25,000, and it's incorrect to say that \$25,000 is the max. It should say violators can be issued a civil penalty up to \$50,276 for knowing violations.

FWS does not often issue civil penalties, and if it did, the penalty would not likely be near the max unless there were aggravating factors and unless it was being handled by DOJ in a judicial civil process rather than by DOI in an administrative civil process.

As for the criminal penalties, I believe that DOJ has a sentencing grid that they use, so they very rarely issue criminal penalties at the max either, but I defer to DOJ on that point. Either way, I think it's accurate to say ESA violators "can be fined \$50,000" because it is legally possible, just not often done. However, the quote says you can face up to five years in prison, which is incorrect. 16 U.S.C. 1540 prescribes up to one year imprisonment for certain violations listed in 16 U.S.C. 1540(b)(1), and up to 6 months imprisonment for knowing violations of any provisions of any other regulations not listed in the statute.

Finally, as to the Lacey Act penalties, it's unclear if they mean criminal or civil penalties, but both are wrong. The max civil penalties for that year would have been \$25,409 for violations listed in 16 U.S.C. 3373(a)(1), and the max criminal penalty for a knowing import would be \$20,000 under 16 U.S.C. 3373(d)(1), and it would be \$10,000 for a knew or should have known violation under (d)(2).

However, DOJ has advised in the past that ESA criminal fines would be assessed in accordance with the Alternative Fines Act, 18 U.S.C. 3571, which revised criminal penalties in a one-time adjustment. For example, a Class A misdemeanor that does not result in [human] death can be fined up to \$100,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense. According to DOJ, "there is one ESA district case out there that says AFA does not apply to ESA but we believe it is wrongly decided and routinely, and successfully, use AFA."

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior



(c) 202-549-2988

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---

**From:** Michael Schmidt <[schmidtm@nytimes.com](mailto:schmidtm@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:20 AM

**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] US Fish and Wildlife Service

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Melissa and Tyler: We're moving forward with some reporting related to gifts that were given to the United States government in 2017 by foreign governments. Below is our understanding of the role that the Department of Interior, and its agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, are supposed to play in dealing with gifts, and what occurred in the matter that we're looking into. Many thanks

Michael S. Schmidt

o.202.862.0356

c.804.363.6794

1. Under the Constitution (Article I, Section 9, Clause 8), all federal employees – including the president and vice president – are prohibited from receiving gifts from foreign countries without consent from Congress. Gifts given by foreign governments to federal employees – including the president – are considered government property. Federal employees – including the president – can keep gifts that are under a benchmark set by the G.S.A. [<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/41/102-42.10>] From January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2020 that number was \$390. [<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/17/2020-05375/revision-to-foreign-gift-minimal-value>]. All gifts over \$390 received by federal employees are supposed to be published once a year in the Federal Register by the State Department's office of protocol. [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2011-title5/html/USCODE-2011-title5-partIII-subpartF-chap73-subchapIV-sec7342.htm>]. Federal employees can purchase those gifts over the benchmark set by the G.S.A., which also handles the sale of the gifts. Those gifts that are not purchased are dealt with in one of two ways. If they are gifts given to anyone in the first or second families, the gifts are sent to the National Archives. All other unpurchased gifts are supposed to be disposed of by the G.S.A.

On foreign trips, the Department of State is supposed to have someone from their protocol office traveling with the White House to oversee how gifts are exchanged and received. The protocol office is supposed to log all the gifts received. Those gifts given to White House personnel are then supposed to be transferred to the White House gift unit. The White House gift unit is then supposed to appraise the gifts. If the gifts are under the GSA threshold, they may be kept. If they are above the threshold, the gifts are government property.

Government agencies and departments – including the White House – are required once a year to provide the State Department’s office of protocol with a list of gifts received from foreign governments that exceed the G.S.A. threshold. Once a year, the State Department’s office of protocol publishes a list of those gifts in the Federal Register.

At times, executive branch employees -- including the president -- will receive gifts that are covered by the Endangered Species Act. In those cases, the gifts are supposed to be sent to Fish and Wildlife Services. Fish and Wildlife Services Office of Law Enforcement is supposed to take the lead in handling materials covered by the Endangered Species Act. When the agency obtains material covered by the Endangered Species Act it typically takes the material to one of two places: the agency's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, where gifts given to presidents or other high level American government officials are housed in a room; or the National Wildlife Property Repository, a 22,000 square foot office and warehouse in Denver, Colorado, where seized evidence and other materials obtained by the agency that violate the Endangered Species Act are held and ultimately sold, destroyed or used as educational materials in places like schools or museums.

#### Question

a. Is our understanding of the Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service role in gifts accurate?

2. Below is our understanding of what happened – or did not happen – to three furs that the Trump White House received on a trip to Saudi Arabia in 2017.

In August 2017, the State Department released this document in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. [<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3986197-TrumpSaudi-Gifts>]. The document listed 83 gifts the Trump White House received during Trump’s May 2017 trip to the kingdom. The document listed three furs (4. Orange and gold wool robe lined with cheetah fur 5. Blue and silver wool robe lined with white tiger fur 36. Purple wool robe with white tiger fur lining) and six daggers or swords (41. Dagger made of pure silver with mother of pearl sheath and various designs 54. One large sword, a dagger, a leather ammo holder and holster 77. Large box containing dagger, sword, ammo holder, and holster 78. Sword).

Aside from the list produced by State in August 2017, these gifts are unaccounted for. They never appeared in any of the annual State Department office of protocol filings in the Federal Register that are supposed to be produced for gifts over the G.S.A. threshold. Through our reporting, we’ve learned that the National Archives does not have the furs, swords or daggers in question. The National Archives has long taken the position that it does not accept gifts that could be protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Instead, the National Archives has long taken the position that possession of such gifts potentially violates the Endangered Species Act and such materials need to be transferred to the Department of Interior’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to dispose of them. Through our reporting we’ve learned that Fish and Wildlife never received the furs.

It is our understanding that under the Endangered Species Act both white tiger fur and cheetah fur are on Appendix I under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. This means that it is illegal to import, or have in

possession, these furs without a license. To obtain such a permit an individual would need to apply to the Fish and Wildlife Service and prove that the furs were legally obtained.

The G.S.A., in response to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by the Times in March, provided us in May with a list of all the gifts over its threshold that were purchased during the Obama and Trump administration's. [That document is attached]. The furs were not on the list.

Questions:

- a. Is the Department of Interior or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in possession of the furs?
  - b. Does the Department of Interior or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have any information on what happened to the furs?
  - c. Were any materials that violated the Endangered Species Act that were given to Trump administration officials sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the Trump administration?
  - d. How many furs or other materials that violated the Endangered Species Act were sent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the Obama administration?
3. This is our understanding of the penalties someone could face if they are in possession of materials from an Appendix I animal.

Typically, Under the Endangered Species Act, those caught with such materials without a permit are fined \$25,000 as a civil penalty. Some cases are criminally prosecuted and you can be fined \$50,000 and face up to five years in prison. If your furs have been obtained illegally, you can be held liable for violating the Lacey Act and can be fined \$250,000 and face up to five years in prison.

Question:

- a. Is our understanding of potential penalties correct?

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherry, Tyler A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Willow follow up question  
**Date:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 9:33:33 AM

---

ok ty

On Thu, May 27, 2021 at 9:29 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

We are not aware of any removal from the list but that is a White House question. Nothing further for you

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 9:23:32 AM  
**To:** Cherry, Tyler A <[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>; Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Willow follow up question

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Hi guys hope you're well. We're updating the Willow story later today with some things and I wanted to see if I can get a comment on something specific:

I see Secretary Haaland [signed a letter](#) not too long ago opposing the Willow project. Can you explain to me how her reasoning changed and why?

Additionally - I have heard now a couple times that Willow has been removed from the list of projects that went out with the climate EO on Jan. 27 that will come under renewed review. Can you tell me definitively if that is accurate or not?

Thanks - if it's possible to get something by noon that would be great.  
best  
Lisa

--  
Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office  
(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times  
(202) 862-0306 office  
(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Haaland quote under embargo?  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 4:34:00 PM

---

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES/ON BACKGROUND: Timing for the incoming Secretary's swearing-in with the Vice President has not yet been finalized. I expect to be able to put images out very soon afterwards. If she is confirmed tonight, she will officially resign from Congress tomorrow afternoon when the House is in session. We are tracking a first operational day as Secretary on Wednesday.

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 4:25 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Haaland quote under embargo?

got it, tks

On Mon, Mar 15, 2021 at 4:19 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

We won't have a statement tonight from Interior. I would ask her House office.

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 3:30 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>; Cherry, Tyler A  
<[tyler\\_cherry@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Haaland quote under embargo?

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Hi, guys,

I've got my "Haaland confirmed" story ready to post when the vote comes this evening. Will she have a statement at that time? Cld you send on embargo, just so we can have it in the story right away? It will not be used until after the confirmation vote is done.

--

Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent  
The New York Times  
Washington Bureau  
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Washington, DC 20006  
[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)  
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Coral Davenport

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O 202-862-0359  
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Twitter @CoralMDavenport

**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] hi! a short-term and longer-term question  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 10:16:25 AM

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Super ty!

On Wed, Feb 10, 2021 at 10:14 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Here are some examples:

- New USGS

[study](#) on elkhorn coral restoration efforts mentioned climate change as driver of coral bleaching

- USGS released an

[analysis](#) showing no recoverable oil deposits in rock formations west of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (and we allowed it to go out after it sat)

- Interior's first



[blog](#) was all about the impacts of climate change and Interior's work toward a clean energy future

- BLM

[restored](#) boilerplate language at the bottom of all of its news releases noting that a major part of BLM's mission is to conserve public lands for future generations.

- BOEM

[resuming](#) the environmental review of Vineyard Wind's proposed offshore wind project mentions climate change as a priority for administration

How about Friday at 1pm at Lincoln Park? Or tomorrow after 3:30?

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 9, 2021 5:23 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] hi! a short-term and longer-term question

thank you and thank you!

Happy to come up your way on Friday unless you are working from home in which case Wine & Butter is always an option. Just lmk what works best for you - looking forward to it. (And thank you in advance for the examples!!)

Lisa

On Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 5:16 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey! Yes please to meeting up. My schedule is insane but I will definitely find time. Maybe Friday around lunchtime??

As for the examples, I have a few and will compile for you.

---

**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 9, 2021 5:09 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] hi! a short-term and longer-term question

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Hey Melissa! I hope you're doing well. Wanted to see if you have the bandwidth to get a socially-distanced coffee later in the week? I'd love to meet up - but I'm also interested

in doing a story looking at all the things DOI has been doing since inauguration. I think between the offshore wind and the leasing decisions and the migratory bird rule no environmental agency has worked as quickly as DOI to start implementing new policy

and I'd love to get my arms around everything you've done and what's coming up. Happy to chat by phone too if that's easier for you right now.

In the meantime though...

I'm helping my WH colleagues out on a story about how the Biden administration is rapidly changing the messaging on key topics (like climate change) that were verboten under Trump.

Just by way of other examples - at HUD they're adding "to fight discrimination" to housing rules now, and referring to indigenous people instead of by other names.

I see the BLM website no longer features a slab of coal! Just wondering if there are other good examples on DOI's web site or social media accounts or new rules where we are finally

referring directly to climate change (other than the EOs of course).

If you're able to point me toward a few things tonight or early tomorrow I'd be grateful!

Ty!

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times



(202) 862-0306 office

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--

Lisa Friedman  
Reporter, New York Times  
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(202) 251-2083 cell

**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: moment to chat?  
**Date:** Friday, March 19, 2021 2:20:55 PM

---

Great, thank you!

On Fri, Mar 19, 2021 at 12:16 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi hi hi! I'm drinking from a fire hose but this is on my radar. Will try you around 2:30

Melissa Schwartz  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:(202)538-2214)

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 12:03:48 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: moment to chat?

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Checking back in on this: we have learned that EPA is actually conducting a review of several Trump rule-makings to see if they can find violations of scientific integrity - is DOI doing anything like this?  
Tks!

On Thu, Mar 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)> wrote:  
We are doing some reporting on what you guys are finding in the agencies as you come in and look around and talk to people in the wake of the last administration -- particularly regarding the undermining of science. During Trump, wrote about what James Reilly was doing with climate modeling at USGS -- saying that climate models should not show outcomes after midcentury, for example. So - was there more stuff like that, and worse? What are you hearing from scientists at USGS, FWS, NPS? Have you found other examples? Policies or memos or accounts of how the Trump appointees suppressed or disregarded science - stuff that we haven't heard about? Would love to learn if there are.

--  
Coral Davenport  
Energy and Environment Correspondent

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Twitter @CoralMDavenport





**From:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] thanks for doing the call yesterday!  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 2:34:08 PM

---

Actually 3 pm now busy - want to give a call at 4?

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 10:57 AM Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)> wrote:  
Yes! can you give a call at 3 or 4?

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 8:26 AM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I'm sorry we didn't connect on Friday – want to check in today?

---

**From:** Coral Davenport <[coral.davenport@nytimes.com](mailto:coral.davenport@nytimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 11:48 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] thanks for doing the call yesterday!

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Sorry we were all so annoying w oil & gas lease Qs.

Could you give a call?

Interested in what else might be coming down the pike.

Cheers,

cd

--

Coral Davenport

Energy and Environment Correspondent

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**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Coral Davenport](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] will you guys appeal this ruling in Louisiana?  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 1:04:00 PM

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We have nothing beyond yesterday's statement right now

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**From:** Coral Davenport <coral.davenport@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] will you guys appeal this ruling in Louisiana?

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**From:** [Lisa Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Willow Project question  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 8:51:41 PM

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Ty

On Wed, May 26, 2021 at 8:50 PM Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

See below for a statement from an Interior spokesperson:

“A Wednesday filing by the U.S. Department of Justice continues to defend a 2020 Record of Decision for the Willow Project in the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A). The filing maintains that the decision complied with NEPA standards

in place at the time, and that the plaintiffs did not challenge the Record of Decision within the time limitations associated with environmental review for projects in the NPR-A. ”

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**From:** Lisa Friedman <[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 11:57 AM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Willow Project question

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Hi Melissa - hope you are well. I'm hearing that the Biden administration likely today will defend in court the ongoing advancement of the Willow Project in Alaska's NPR. Not sure whether to contact you or DOJ on this - but are you able

to confirm and/or speak about why the Biden administration is making this decision?  
(deadline today...)

Ty!

Lisa

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Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

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