



U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 15, 2012



**From the Desk of
Gail Adams
Director, OIEA**

Dear Friends:

This month was a very busy month for Secretary Salazar and OIEA. The Secretary traveled to Nevada, Utah, and Colorado, and continues to make tremendous strides on President Obama's "all-of-the-above" approach to energy production.

Looking ahead, we will share updates on energy, tourism, local initiatives and Armed Forces Week, and hope you will give us feedback on current initiatives and policy priorities.

If you have any questions about this newsletter or in general, please feel free to contact our office at 202-208-1923.

Sincerely,

Gail Adams

Secretary Salazar, Governor Hickenlooper Sign Agreement to Establish Rocky Mountain Greenway as America's Next Great Urban Park

DENVER, CO— Secretary Ken Salazar and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper formalized an agreement to implement Conservation and recreation projects throughout the Denver and Front Range metropolitan area. The action builds on President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative to support locally-driven projects and strengthen economies and communities with greater access to open spaces and outdoor recreation.

three National Wildlife Refuges in the metro region, Rocky Mountain National Park, and community trails systems in between.

A copy of the agreement is available [here](#).



The agreement, signed on May 4th at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, establishes a 10-person steering committee to implement the Rocky Mountain Greenway Project – a federal, state, local and stakeholder partnership to create uninterrupted trails/transportation linkages connecting the Denver metro area's trail systems, the

Salazar 'Flips the Switch' on First Large-Scale Solar Energy Project on Public Lands to Provide Power to the Grid

PRIMM, Nevada – As part of President Obama's all-of-the-above approach to energy, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar "flipped the switch" on the Enbridge Silver State North solar project, the first large-scale solar energy facility on U.S. public lands to deliver power to American consumers.

"This is a landmark day for solar energy and for the nation," Salazar said at the dedication ceremony with state and company officials. "Silver State North was the first solar project we approved on public lands and --18 months later -- the first of our priority projects to provide clean energy to the power grid. This is a model of industry and government working together to strengthen local economies, generating good jobs and affordable, reliable and sustainable power."



Inside This Issue

News Highlights	2
DOI Urban	3
Meet the Staff	4

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Energy

Two-year Progress Report Highlights Accomplishments under Interior-Energy-Army MOU, APRIL 16— As part of President Obama's all-of-the-above strategy to develop American energy, the Department of the Interior, the Department of the Army, and the Department of Energy have significantly advanced potential development of hydropower generation in the United States, according to a two-year progress report on the implementation of an interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on hydropower.

Salazar Addresses National Press Club on "All-of-the-Above" Energy Strategy, APRIL 24— Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar spoke at the National Press Club about President Obama's "all of the above" strategy for domestic energy development, including the expansion of domestic oil and gas production, and initiatives to harness renewable and alternative energy sources.

Salazar 'Flips the Switch' on First Large-Scale Solar Energy Project on Public Lands to Provide Power to the Grid, MAY 7 — As part of President Obama's all-of-the-above approach to energy, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar "flipped the switch" on the Enbridge Silver State North solar project, the first large-scale solar energy facility on U.S. public lands to deliver power to American consumers.

Interior Releases Draft Rule Requiring Public Disclosure of Chemicals Used in Hydraulic Fracturing on Public and Indian Lands, MAY 4 — In support of President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy, and the Obama administration's goal of continuing to expand responsible oil

and gas production, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced the release of a proposed rule to require companies to publicly disclose the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing operations on public and Indian lands, with appropriate protections for proprietary information.

Obama Administration Approves Major Natural Gas Project for Uinta Basin, MAY 8 — In support of President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy, and the Obama administration's goal of continuing to expand responsible oil and gas production, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar approved a major natural gas project in Utah's Uinta Basin that could develop more than 3,600 new wells over the next decade, while safeguarding air quality and assuring the protection of critical wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation values. The project will support up to 4,300 jobs during development.



Photo: Secretary Salazar 'flips the switch' on the Silver State North solar project in Nevada.

Native Americans

Interior Announces First Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Construction Contract, APRIL 16— Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that the Bureau of Reclamation today has awarded a \$10.75 million construction contract for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, setting the stage for construction to begin on the major water infrastructure project this summer. When completed, the project will provide a long-term, sustainable water supply to meet the critical needs of more than 43 Navajo chapters; the city of Gallup, New Mexico; and the Teepee Junction area of the Jicarilla Apache Nation.

Secretaries Salazar and Duncan Seek Tribal Consultations on Proposed Framework to Spur Educational Advancement in Indian Country, APRIL 16 — As part of President Obama's commitment to empowering Indian nations, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that their Departments will begin tribal consultations on a draft agreement to help expand educational opportunities.

Salazar, Jarvis Announce Proposal to Establish Nation's First Tribal National Park in Badlands, APRIL 26 — Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis announced the release of the final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the South Unit of Badlands National Park, recommending the establishment of the nation's first tribal national park in partnership with the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Secretary Salazar, Montana Governor Schweitzer, Crow Tribe Chairman Black Eagle Sign Water Rights Compact, APRIL 27 — Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar was joined by Crow Tribe Apsáalooke Nation Chairman Cedric Black Eagle and Montana Brian Schweitzer for the signing of a Crow Tribe-Montana Water Rights Compact. The compact seeks to resolve more than three decades of controversy, ensure safe drinking water for the reservation, and provide for the rehabilitation of the Crow Irrigation Project. You may view a video of the signing by clicking [here](#).

Wildlife & Conservation

Salazar, Abbey Dedicate Two National Conservation Areas in Utah as Part of National Tourism Week, MAY 7 — Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey today hosted a dedication ceremony for two new National Conservation Areas near St. George, Utah. The celebration kicked off National Tourism Week and underscored how tourism to our nation's public lands strengthens local economies.

DOI URBAN INITIATIVES

The Bureau of Reclamation—Reclaiming Water and Neighborhoods

Lisa Pelstring, Advisor, Urban Environmental Issues and the Anacostia Watershed, Office of the Deputy Secretary & Amy Witherall, Water Resources Planner, Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Area Office

For more than 25 years, thousands of people have worked to make the Los Angeles River a better place by creating new parks, trails and bikeways, and restoring native habitat. But even with these past and ongoing restoration efforts, most of the river's 51 miles—32 of which are in the City—still collect the trash, pollution, and contaminants that wash from the streets of Los Angeles and surrounding metropolitan area. However, an innovative demonstration project in one neighborhood has become a national model for capturing stormwater for groundwater recharge while improving the quality of life for residents.

In 2000, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation forged a unique partnership with the Los Angeles area non-profit Council for Watershed Health. This partnership resulted in the ten-year Water Augmentation Study which recommended the Elmer Avenue Neighborhood Retrofit Project. Historically, Elmer Avenue suffered from major drainage problems. However, water that used to flood the streets is now captured, infiltrating soil to recharge groundwater aquifers. By working with the community on street design and landscaping, Reclamation and partners completed a one-street project that now provides 16 acre-feet of recharge annually, capturing and treating runoff from 40 acres of residential land use. This not only reduces stormwater pollution that would eventually wind up in the river, but also increases water supply in this drought-prone area.

Using native drought tolerant landscaping, rain gardens, meandering sidewalks, permeable surfaces, and rainwater collection for irrigation, the Elmer Avenue partners have transformed an urban street with no storm drains or sidewalks into a model green community. Homeowners received training on how to maintain their new landscape—increasing awareness of watershed issues while also promoting community pride and stewardship in their own front yards. Today, economists are studying how such improvements have affected property values, and neighboring residents are clamoring for a green retrofit for their streets.

This signature urban project is one of many DOI projects that are improving the lives of city residents while also addressing water quality and conservation.



Elmer Avenue before and after Reclamation stormwater infrastructure upgrades.
Photos by Council for Watershed Health



1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-1923
Fax: 202-208-1821
www.doi.gov/iga/



Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Gail Adams, Director
Valerie Smith, Program Assistant
Francisco Carrillo, Deputy Director
Terri Johnson, Deputy Director
Vicki Dixon, Program Analyst
Isra Pananon, Special Assistant
Marc Littlejohn, Special Assistant
Alexa Magdalenski, Intern
Jarrid Green, Intern



Photo: Federal agency team with Roger Dow, President & CEO, US Travel Association and Stephen Cloobek, Chairman, Brand USA at the International Pow Wow in Los Angeles, CA.

Meet the Staff: Isra Pananon, Special Assistant



Favorite National Park:

Acadia National Park

Isra Pananon is a Special Assistant in the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs. Her portfolio involves serving as a liaison to state and local governments, and external stakeholders. She came to this position by way of The George Washington University's Center for Excellence in Public Leadership, where she helped coordinate the training of senior executives and mid-level professionals in federal government.

Isra is also a member of the United States Army Reserve. As a junior officer and adjutant, she is responsible for managing personnel issues for over 60 soldiers in her medical detachment. Lieutenant Pananon also assists in the training and development of combat medics with the overarching goal of getting soldiers deployment ready, should the situation arise. Prior to joining the Army, she served as a scheduler and executive assistant for a Congressional member.

Isra graduated from the Army Medical Department Basic Officer Leaders Course in October 2011 and plans to attend other military training schools. She has her Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and is working towards her Master's in Public Administration at the University of Baltimore. Upon completion, she hopes to continue her military career until the highest rank attainable.