

BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
TRIBAL CONSULTATION  
POTENTIAL DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR REORGANIZATION  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

21 June 2018  
Between  
Billings, Montana USA  
and  
Lusk, Wyoming USA

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|    |                          |   |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| 1  | ATTENDEES:               |   |
| 2  | Arnell Abold             | Intertribal Buffalo<br>Council  |
| 3  |                          |   |
| 4  | Julian Abourgh           | Oglala Sioux - GPTCA  |
| 5  | Mark Azure               | Intertribal Buffalo<br>Council  |
| 6  | Anthony A. Addison, Sr.  | Northern Arapaho Business<br>Council                                    |
| 7  |                          |   |
| 8  | Chris Bearhart           | Cherokee Nation   |
| 9  | Ramon Bear Runner        | Special Assistant to<br>President<br>Oglala Sioux Tribe<br>South Dakota |
| 10 |                          |   |
| 11 | Derrick Beetso           | NCAI  |
| 12 | Dennis Big Hair, Sr.     | Crow Tribe  |
| 13 | Donna Thompson Bollinger | Council member<br>Shoshone Bannock Tribes<br>Fort Hall, ID              |
| 14 |                          |   |
| 15 | Ervin Carlson            | Blackfeet<br>President ITBC   |
| 16 |                          |   |
| 17 | Debbie Charette          | Northern Cheyenne   |
| 18 | Lynn Cliff, Jr.          | Councilman<br>Ft. Belknap   |
| 19 | Douglas Davis            | Reclamation   |
| 20 | Charleen Eagle Elk       | Intertribal Buffalo<br>Council  |
| 21 |                          |   |
| 22 | Stephen M. Fast Horse    | Council member<br>Northern Arapaho Tribe                                |
| 23 | Conrad Fisher            | Northern Cheyenne Tribe   |

|    |                          |  |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| 1  | ATTENDEES (Continued):   |  |
| 2  | Steve Fox                | Secretary-Treasurer<br>Ft. Belknap                                     |
| 3  |                          |  |
| 4  | Morris Harbanger (Phon.) |  |
| 5  | Robert N. Harris, Sr.    | Eastern Shoshone   |
| 6  | Benji Headswift          | NLTC   |
| 7  | Danielle Her Many Horses | Oglala   |
| 8  | Curtis Horn              | FBIC   |
| 9  | Ben Janes                | Lower Brule  |
| 10 | L. Jace Killsbuck        | President<br>Northern Cheyenne Tribe                                   |
| 11 | Sheldon King             | Northern Cheyenne Tribe  |
| 12 | <b>A.</b> Gay Kingman    | Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe<br>Great Plains Tribal Chair<br>Association |
| 13 |                          |  |
| 14 | Michael LaValley         | Senator Tester   |
| 15 | Clark Madison            | Ft. Peck - Elk River Law   |
| 16 | Jodie McAdams            | Eastern Shoshone Tribe   |
| 17 | Connie Medicine Bull     | Northern Cheyenne  |
| 18 | Kenneth Medicine Bull    | Elder<br>Northern Cheyenne   |
| 19 |                          |  |
| 20 | A. J. Not Afraid         | Chairman, Crow Tribe   |
| 21 | Doug Oellermoun          | Reclamation<br>Great Plains Region                                     |
| 22 | R. Nate Old Crow         | Crow Tribe   |
| 23 |                          |  |

## 1 ATTENDEES (Continued):

|    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 2  | Len P(illegible) | Confederated Salish and<br>Kootnai         |
| 3  |                  |  |
| 4  | Rhonda Pitka     | Chief<br>Beaver Village                    |
| 5  | Waylon Rogers    | Northern Cheyenne                          |
| 6  |                  |  |
| 7  | William Rowland  | Northern Cheyenne Tribal<br>Council        |
| 8  | Majel Russell    | ITBC, Ft. Peck Legal<br>Counsel            |
| 9  |                  |  |
| 10 | Richard Sanger   | Chippewa Cree Tribe                        |
| 11 | Merlin Sioux     | Northern Cheyenne                          |
| 12 | Gene Small       | Northern Cheyenne Tribe                    |
| 13 | Vernon Small     | Northern Cheyenne Tribal<br>Council        |
| 14 | William Snell    | Rocky Mountain Tribal<br>Leaders Council   |
| 15 |                  |  |
| 16 | Lee Spoonhunter  | Co-Chairman<br>Northern Arapaho Tribe      |
| 17 | Grant Stafne     | Ft. Peck Tribal Council<br>Ft. Peck Tribes |
| 18 |                  |  |
| 19 | Douglas Stuart   | (Illegible) to RMTLC<br>Ft. Belknap        |
| 20 | Karen Syder      | Council member<br>Eastern Shoshone Tribe   |
| 21 |                  |  |
| 22 | Lance Tissidimit | Shoshone Bannock Tribes<br>ITBC            |

23

## 1 ATTENDEES (Continued):

|    |                   |   |
|----|-------------------|---|
| 2  | Tafinia Tusa      | Rocky Mountain Tribal<br>Leaders              |
| 3  |                   |   |
| 4  | Clint D. Wagon    | Chairman<br>Eastern Shoshone                  |
| 5  | Carolee Wenderoth | Confederated Salish and<br>Kootenai           |
| 6  |                   |   |
| 7  | Dan Wenner        | Ft. Peck Tribal Legal<br>Counsel              |
| 8  | Andy Werk, Jr.    | President,<br>Ft. Belknap Indian<br>Community |
| 9  |                   |   |
| 10 | Illegible         | NCTC, Tribal Council                          |
| 11 | Illegible         | FBIC  |

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1 of looked up in the sky. And we all kind of  
2 wondering, you know, what, what she, what is she  
3 looking for?

09:11:33 4 Well, I looked up there and I seen it  
5 had all kinds of designs and feeling, or a tense  
6 feeling. And, then she said, "Now, look for the  
7 Holy Ghost."

8 And, it was just about that time that a  
9 firearm went off, and she said, "Aahh, shit." I  
09:11:52 10 was afraid to think that, you know, whatever that  
11 was.

12 I don't know if it was right or wrong,  
13 but my Grandma, she -- So, I'm glad to be here, and  
14 thanks for the welcome. And, they always say  
09:12:12 15 welcome to coal country.

16 Actually, it's Cheyenne country. I  
17 don't know who started that, but, you know, so now  
18 we're here.

19 Hope that all of us have a good time and  
09:12:34 20 share your thoughts and ideas. And, all I can say  
21 is (inaudible).

22 Don't be like Custer. He told us he'd  
23 be right back.

1                   We don't know where he went. You don't  
2 want to go.

3                   (Whereupon, a prayer was shared, after  
4 which the following occurred:)

09:19:02 5                   THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you.

6                   So, thanks for coming this morning. I  
7 thank you for taking the time out of your busy  
8 schedules and, and spend with us.

9                   And, I will -- We have a slide show  
09:19:16 10 which will go over some of this. Like I say,  
11 again, I thank you for taking your time and coming  
12 to Billings, as well.

13                   This is one of a series of consultations  
14 that we're doing, I'd say the initial round of  
09:19:29 15 consultations on the initial reorganization of the  
16 Department of Interior. And, this is the second.

17                   We were in Michigan meeting with the  
18 (inaudible) Tribe, and, on Tuesday, and next week  
19 we have a couple more that we're trying to get  
09:19:43 20 around to Indian Country as quick as we can,  
21 provide as much information as we can about the  
22 concepts that we go over the Department  
23 reorganization, and then we will then have



1 additional consultations after that to, you know,  
2 interact with your leadership after you've had a  
3 chance to digest all the information that we've  
4 provided you, and, and hopefully to be better  
09:20:09 5 informed and, and to be able to key that all in.

6 So, we're going to -- I guess I'm in the  
7 way here. Step to the side here.

8 So, I think protocol-wise that if, if  
9 you'll bear with me when I go through this slide  
09:20:24 10 show, it's got the basic information, and kind of  
11 get that into your hands first, and then, and then  
12 we'll open it up for questions and, and other  
13 commentary, anything that, that you want to make.

14 I would ask -- We do have, we have a  
09:20:43 15 time window here. We have, we've set until 1:00  
16 o'clock, right?

17 But, I want to make sure the tribal  
18 leadership, on behalf of, of, of the Tribe, gets a  
19 chance to, to get their comments and questions on  
09:20:56 20 the Record first. And, then, after that we'll open  
21 it up to other folks that are, that are here to, to  
22 offer their comments, et cetera.

23 So, we have -- This is a, being recorded

1 by a Court Reporter. Unfortunately she couldn't be  
2 here, but she's on phone, and so this will also be  
3 part of the Record of the consultations that we're  
4 doing.

09:21:18

5 Whenever we get around and the  
6 technology gets us there, the, the Transcripts of  
7 these will be on our web site and you will be able  
8 to go through those, as well. At least that's  
9 usually how long?

09:21:31

10 Couple weeks? Two or three weeks.

11 So, those will be up on our web site.  
12 And, we have -- On the Indian Affairs web page you  
13 can access this information.

09:21:46

14 On the Department's web page, front web  
15 page, you can also access the map we'll show here  
16 in, in a little bit, which is proposed  
17 reunification after the reorganization. I also  
18 want to just take a chance since I've got you here  
19 in the room just to say thank-you to our staff.

09:22:03

20 They're working very hard. Liz Apple,  
21 Liz Apple is our Acting Chief of Staff, and she's  
22 also sort of the head of, of Regulatory Affairs  
23 for, for the Office of the Assistant Secretary, and

1 performs this great function of, of assisting us to  
2 do things like consultation, making sure we're not  
3 only abiding by the law, but abiding by our  
4 consultation commitments, and make sure that we're,  
09:22:27 5 we're having everything in an orderly fashion  
6 prepared to go out to the Register or to go out to  
7 the web site and, and be available for you.

8 Also, I don't know where Dave went.

9 Charlie and them,

09:22:41 10 But, other staff that are here, Regina  
11 and some of the other young ladies. But, they're  
12 helping out there.

13 I hope you got a chance to sign in.  
14 And, to the extent, if possible, it makes it easier  
09:22:50 15 for us to work our way through the Sign-In sheet;  
16 also for the Record, to make sure we get names down  
17 correctly.

18 Which reminds me, if they -- When you  
19 speak, for purposes of the Record, if you could  
09:23:02 20 introduce yourself, your name, your leadership  
21 position, your, and the Tribe that you represent so  
22 that our Court Reporter can try to get that down,  
23 as well.

1                   And, again, if you, if you didn't get a  
2 chance to sign up previously, at some point if  
3 you -- We'll take a break, one or two breaks, and  
4 will be sure -- But, if you have a chance, if you  
09:23:32 5 sign in it actually helps us be sure we've got the  
6 names down correctly, et cetera.

7                   So, I think that's it. We'll launch  
8 this off to -- Okay.

9                   If you'll -- So, where do we start this?  
09:23:42 10 This started last year.

11                   President Trump took office, 2017. I'm  
12 sorry.

13                   MR. KILLSBUCK: (Inaudible), Northern  
14 Cheyenne Tribe. If there's no agenda for this  
09:23:54 15 consultation?

16                   THE MODERATOR: You should have received  
17 a Tribal leader letter.

18                   MR. KILLSBUCK: Does that have the  
19 Agenda --

09:24:03 20                   THE MODERATOR: Yes.

21                   MR. KILLSBUCK: -- in it?

22                   THE MODERATOR: Yes.

23                   MR. KILLSBUCK: Do you think it's

1 possible, if this is true Government-to-Government,  
2 could we go around the introductions first before  
3 you give your presentation?

4 THE MODERATOR: Sure.

09:24:14

5 MR. KILLSBUCK: I'd also like to thank  
6 Kenny Medicine Bull for that prayer this morning.  
7 I think it's only proper that we have a little  
8 protocol established for this  
9 Government-to-Government meeting if it's going to  
10 be a true consultation to give the Government  
11 introduction.

09:24:30

12 I think it's important that the tribal  
13 leaders have traveled a long ways to get the chance  
14 to at least introduce ourselves before we get into  
15 the formal discussion. I think there should be  
16 some protocol.

09:24:45

17 THE MODERATOR: Great.

18 MR. STAFIN: Good morning. I'm Grant  
19 Stafin with the Sioux Tribe, Board member.

09:25:06

20 MR. FISHER: Good morning, as well.  
21 Conrad Fisher, Vice President, Northern Cheyenne  
22 Tribe.

23 Again, Jace Killstack, President,

1 Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

2 MR. HARRIS: Nick Harris, Eastern  
3 Shoshoni Business Council.

09:25:27

4 MR. WAGON: Clint Wagon, Chairman of the  
5 Eastern Shoshone Tribe.

6 MR. BEETSO: Derrick Beetso, Senior  
7 Council, National Council of American Indians.

09:25:38

8 MS. (Inaudible): Good morning.  
9 (Inaudible.) I work with the General Counsel for  
10 the National BIA Association.

11 MS. KINGMAN: Good morning. Gay  
12 Kingman, Director, Great Plains Tribal Commission  
13 and member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and  
14 (inaudible).

09:25:51

15 MS. (Inaudible): Hi. (Inaudible.)

16 MR. (Inaudible): I'm on the Council for  
17 the Sissiton Nation, and I'm also Ceremonial  
18 Leader. And, I am -- It feels good to meet some  
19 colleagues, and it's good to, you know, include  
20 everybody.

09:26:47

21 You don't have to be an official or  
22 special indication or anything like that. I  
23 thought this was America where we have people and

1           **A.** An opportunity and that's what America  
2 stands for, whereas Indians don't need a  
3 Reservation.

4           But, I'm here anyway. And, I was here  
09:27:16 5 first, and I'll probably be the last one to leave.

6           MS. (Inaudible): Hi, I'm (inaudible)  
7 and I'm also our Chair of the tribal government.

8           MS. TUSE: Good morning. This is  
9 (inaudible) Tusi, for Tribal Council  
09:27:36 10 representative, Confederated Kootnai Tribe.

11           And, I'm (inaudible), and I'm also from  
12 the CFPP Department (inaudible).

13           MS. McADAMS: Good morning. Jodie  
14 McAdams, Eastern Shoshoni Tribe.

09:27:50 15           MS. SNYDER: Good morning. Karen  
16 Snyder, from the Eastern Shoshone Tribe.

17           MR. STUART: Good morning. Douglas  
18 Stuart, from Fort Belknap.

19           MR. SNELL: Good morning, everyone.  
09:28:03 20 This is -- I'm Bill Snell, with the Rocky Mountain  
21 Tribal Leaders' Council, Executive Director.

22           MR. BEAR RUNNER: Good morning. I'm  
23 Ramon Bear Runner, Special Assistant to the

1 President, Oglala Sioux Nation.

2 MR. CLIFF: Good morning. I'm Lynn  
3 Cliff, Jr. I'm the Mountain Lakota Representative  
4 for the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

09:28:30 5 MR. WERK: I'm Andy Werk, Jr. I'm here  
6 for the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

7 Thank you, Mr. Killsbuck, for the prayer  
8 this morning, sir.

9 MR. FOX: Good morning. Steve Fox,  
09:28:42 10 Secretary-Treasurer for Fort Belknap Indian  
11 Community.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning.  
13 Thank you for the prayer, sir.

14 I'm from Fort Peck. I work with Elk  
09:28:55 15 River Law.

16 We're here on behalf of the Fort Peck  
17 Tribes today.

18 MR. MADISON: My name is Clark Madison.  
19 (Whereupon, laughter was had.)

09:29:04 20 MR. MADISON: Some people call me Two  
21 Rivers.

22 MR. SANGER: I'm Richard Sanger. I'm  
23 Chief of Staff from the Chippewa Cree Tribe,



1 Rockwood.

2 MR. CARLSON: Good morning. I'm Ervin  
3 Carlson.

09:29:24

4 I'm the President of the Intertribal  
5 Business Council. I'm also a member of the  
6 Blackfeet Tribe.

09:29:40

7 MS. RUSSELL: Good morning. I'm Majel  
8 Russell, and I'm with the Elk River Law Office here  
9 in town, and I'm also here representing the  
10 Intertribal Business Council for the Tribe.

11 MR. WENNER: Dan Wenner. I'm also with  
12 Elk River Law.

13 MR. JANIS: Friends, good morning. I'm  
14 Ben Janes.

09:29:50

15 I'm with the Lower Brule Tribe of South  
16 Dakota, and I (inaudible) and IBC. Thank you.

17 MR. (Inaudible): (Inaudible.)

18 MR. FAST HORSE: Morning. Stephen Fast  
19 Horse, Northern Arapaho Business Council.

09:30:09

20 MR. SPOONHUNTER: Good morning. My name  
21 is Lee Spoonhunter, Cochairman, Northern Arapaho  
22 Tribe.

23 MR. HORN: Morning. My name is

1 (inaudible).

2 I go by the Christian name of Curtis  
3 Horn. I'm from the Fort Belknap Indian Community  
4 Assiniboine representative. Thanks.

09:30:16 5 MS. THOMPSON BOLLINGER: Good morning.  
6 Donna Thompson Bollinger from Shoshone Bannock  
7 Tribe (inaudible).

8 MR. TISSIDIMIT: My name's Lance  
9 Tissidimit, with Intertribal Buffalo Council,  
09:30:42 10 Shoshone Bannock Tribe.

11 MS. (Inaudible): And, I'm a member of  
12 the Intertribal Buffalo Council and I'm also a  
13 member of the (inaudible) Tribe. And, I'd like to  
14 just share with you a quote from one of our  
09:31:00 15 leaders.

16 (Whereupon, a monologue was held in a  
17 Native tongue after which the following occurred:)

18 MS. (Inaudible): That means: Let me  
19 behold this day for it is ours to make. So, with  
09:31:09 20 that being said I should think, I think everybody  
21 should, you should get everybody's input into this  
22 and then make some good decisions that can benefit  
23 everybody. Thank you.

1 MS. ABOLD: Good morning. I'm Arnell  
2 Abold, and I'm the Executive Director for the  
3 Intertribal Buffalo Council and a member of the  
4 (inaudible) Tribe.

09:31:30

5 MR. (Inaudible): Morning. (Inaduble)  
6 Secretary of the (inaudible) Tribe.

7 MR. HARBANDER (phonetic): Morris  
8 Harbander, Secretary of the Intertribal Buffalo  
9 Council and a member of the Assiniboine.

10 MS. (Inaudible): Good morning.  
11 (Inaudible.)

12 MR. AZURE: Good morning. Mark Azure of  
13 Buffalo Council and Assiniboine.

09:31:44

14 MR. LaVALLEY: Good morning. My name's  
15 Michael LaValley.

16 I'm not a tribal leader. I'm employed  
17 by Senator Tester's office.

18 MR. (Inaudible): Good morning. I'm  
19 (inaudible), Director for (inaudible) Council.

09:32:15

20 MR. KING: Good morning. Sheldon King,  
21 Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council.

22 MR. SMALL: Morning. Gene Small,  
23 Director of Northern Cheyenne Land and Grazing.

1 MR. SMALL: Good morning. Vernon Small,  
2 Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

4 MR. ROWLAND: Good morning. William  
5 Rowland, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council and  
6 (inaudible) District.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning.  
8 (Inaudible.) in a while.

9 MR. (Inaudible): Tribal Council.

09:33:00 10 MR. DAVIS: Good morning. Doug Davis,  
11 Native American Affairs Manager for Bureau of  
12 Reclamation.

13 MR. OELLERMONN: Good morning. Doug  
14 Oellermann, with Bureau of Reclamation Native  
09:33:13 15 American Affairs Program here in Billings.

16 MR. HESSE (Phonetic): Good morning.  
17 I'm Charlie Hesse, Acting Deputy Regional Director  
18 for (inaudible) Services at BIA Rocky Mountain  
19 Region.

09:33:28 20 MR. (Inaudible): Good morning. I'm  
21 Jordan Frith (phonetic) (inaudible) here at Rocky  
22 Mountain Regional Office.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Morning.

1 (Inaudible.)

2 MR. NO SLEEP: Morning. Douglas No  
3 Sleep, Special Agent in Charge, BIA, (inaudible).

09:33:45

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm a Special  
5 Agent in Charge of the BIA.

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER:

7 (Inaudible.)

8 MR. NOT AFRAID: Okay, ready to proceed?  
9 Okay.

09:34:04

10 So, thank you, Chairmen. So, I'm going  
11 to offer this as an apology.

12 I know that's the protocol that, that  
13 you guys like. And, I'm from a Southern Plains  
14 Tribe.

09:34:19

15 I appreciate that, so I apologize. As  
16 we go around the country, so many different Tribes,  
17 so many different regions, they have different ways  
18 they want to proceed.

09:34:33

19 So, thank you for getting us off on a  
20 good foot this morning. Appreciate that.

21 So, where did this discussion start?  
22 When President Trump took office last year he  
23 issued an Executive Order to each Agency to give a

1 Plan on how they could reorganize their, their  
2 agency to improve their efficiency, effectiveness,  
3 and the accountability of the agency.

09:34:53 4 Toward that, Department last year put  
5 out a tribal letter and held listening sessions at  
6 six locations in May and June. I think since then  
7 we've had two more, including at the National  
8 Congress of American Indians two weeks in Kansas  
9 City.

09:35:11 10 We had a listening session there, as  
11 well. So, where are we now?

12 So, really, the, our reorganization plan  
13 for Interior has not been written out, finalized  
14 yet. We have a lot of things in draft, including  
09:35:25 15 the map.

16 As I mentioned, you can go on the, the  
17 Interior web page and see a map there. I don't  
18 know.

19 It used to be interactive. You used to  
09:35:35 20 be able to play with, with the, the regional lines,  
21 and, but, I think they took that out of it because  
22 it was too costly.

23 Anyway, looking for new ways it was

1 intended. But, you can still do the map as, as  
2 it's proposed now.

3 And, so, for our part, now, where you've  
4 got at least a, a close-to-final proposed map. We  
09:35:58 5 wanted you to come out, and we also have a little  
6 more ideas.

7 Secretary's fleshed out a little bit  
8 more on this video and reorganization. For the  
9 Department, I, I now feel like I have enough  
09:36:10 10 information to come to you to have a good  
11 discussion.

12 So, we want to initiate consultation.  
13 We have eight initial ones that we're doing over  
14 the next month and a-half, and then, as I said at  
09:36:22 15 the very beginning, we'll, we'll take stock then of  
16 all the comments that we've received and lay out  
17 additional consultations then.

18 And, these initial ones that you -- The  
19 minute you see the map you'll see, I thought it  
09:36:35 20 would be a, an interesting exercise for us to do  
21 the initial consultations in places that are  
22 located in a, a new-proposed unified region.

23 And, then, that, that gets to some

1 geographic dispersion around the country. And, in  
2 the second round we can probably take additional  
3 places.

09:36:57

4 And, and, folks that have, some folks,  
5 some of these, there's a long way to travel.

09:37:13

6 Feeling it was a long ways for the Great Plains  
7 Tribes that wanted to come, and, so, when we do  
8 another round we're also hoping we'll be able to  
9 place those in areas where people couldn't make one  
10 of these, and we'll be in an area closer to them.

11 So, in addition to -- So, we're doing  
12 our part seeking your consultation. We're also  
13 doing, at Indian Affairs, our part and talking to  
14 our employees.

09:37:27

15 So, we need to hear the employees, both  
16 in the (inaudible) office and the Bureau of Indian  
17 Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. And,  
18 we really need the rest of the Department; are  
19 doing the same thing.

09:37:39

20 They talk to their stakeholders. BLM  
21 talks to Governors, et cetera. Bureau of Rec talks  
22 to Governors and talks to Regional water pros.

23 And, they're also talking to their



1 staff. And, we've had several staff-level meetings  
2 that the Secretary has hosted, including January,  
3 inviting the senior career management and all  
4 get-togethers from the Department-wide.

09:38:01

5 Brought them into D.C. We had a  
6 three-day session, and, and, and we, we tried to  
7 flesh out new vision of where the new organization  
8 could be, and seek their advice.

09:38:14

9 So, obviously, other people that have,  
10 have a lot of input to put into this is Congress.  
11 But, at the end of the day, large pieces of this  
12 large reorganization plan will have to be affirmed  
13 by Congress because it will change some of the  
14 budget structures for the Bureaus, et cetera; how  
15 we interact with each other.

09:38:32

16 So, Congress is also a big stakeholder  
17 in this, as well. So, let me have -- Go ahead.

18 Not real loud, because I'm right here.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, you go

09:38:47

20 ahead. Keep talking.

21 THE MODERATOR: And, so, I think it's  
22 helpful in continue centralizing the, the size of  
23 the challenge that we're taking on, and also why

1 it's important to look at Department-Wide. And,  
2 maybe I should take a step back and say:

3 So, what, what the concept the Secretary  
4 has put important are forward is really an overall  
09:39:13 5 department-wide reorganization, meaning that this  
6 is intended to create better coordination and  
7 coordination across the Bureau for decisions that  
8 the different Bureaus have to provide to each  
9 other, or give input to each other on.

09:39:29 10 It's not so much focused on  
11 reorganization down the side within that particular  
12 Bureau, but at a higher level so we can get better  
13 communication for proper decisions that come out of  
14 the Region. So, that's the idea.

09:39:41 15 Why is it important to us? The  
16 Department's huge.

17 We have 2,400 different locations, all  
18 operating locations, different offices, et cetera,  
19 in 12 (inaudible). So, literally, the Department  
09:39:59 20 is responsible for over half the globe.

21 We have over 7,000 employees. We  
22 interact with 600,000-plus volunteers who work in  
23 different areas of the Department at different

1 times, a lot of those in parks and (inaudible) and  
2 stuff.

09:40:16

3 But, a lot of other Bureaus get involved  
4 to help us, as well. As you know, you're out west  
5 here, big chunks of the country are under the  
6 management of the Department of Interior.

09:40:26

7 In fact, one-fifth of the United States,  
8 20 percent of the surface area of the United States  
9 is under the direct management of Interior, under  
10 the direct management of the Bureau of Land  
11 Management.

12 But, most of that we hold, we hold in  
13 trust for you. And, so, that's included in that,  
14 in that calculation.

09:40:35

15 We also have lots of subsurface  
16 responsibilities. Twenty-five million acre-feet of  
17 water we're, we're responsible for helping the  
18 administration of.

09:40:49

19 So, the Department itself has not been  
20 reorganized in 150 years; really, since the  
21 Department was founded back in 1849. And, as most  
22 of you recall from your history, the Department of  
23 Indian Affairs was actually in the Department of

1 War.

2           Shortly after Interior was formed, they  
3 moved the BIA into the Department of Interior. So,  
4 Interior is the fourth, fourth largest Department  
09:41:07 5 in the federal administration.

6           So, BIA was part of that, that whole  
7 history in it. In addition to BIA, over time, the  
8 Department was given additional responsibility.

9           And, these bureaus were created to help  
09:41:26 10 the Department administer those responsibilities.  
11 And, they just got added into the portfolio, sort  
12 of ad hoc, as time went by, as new, new  
13 responsibilities came along.

14           So, there was no comprehensive thinking  
09:41:40 15 about how you would, you know, organize this large  
16 government administration for efficiency purposes.  
17 So, mainly the idea is take a look now at how the  
18 Department is organized across the board, try to  
19 improve our efficiencies internally, maximize our  
09:42:03 20 services to the American people, to Tribes, and the  
21 people we serve, and to consolidate the  
22 decision-making.

23           So, right now we often have a decision

1 for, for one decision, but we have multiple  
2 agencies who are coming up with their own ideas  
3 about how that decision should be implemented,  
4 which, obviously, creates a lot of inefficiencies  
09:42:23 5 for us.

6           Ultimately, problem solving, ultimately  
7 it's not a good decision. So, that's the main idea  
8 to, to make better decision-making, is the main  
9 goal.

09:42:35 10           Better decision-making, more efficient,  
11 more accurate on behalf of the, more cost-effective  
12 on behalf of the American people. So, how, how  
13 does this work into the map?

14           So, the idea would be to bring all the  
09:42:49 15 Bureaus into 13 unified regions. Right now you  
16 have nine Bureaus and, and a number of other  
17 offices.

18           These different Bureaus and offices  
19 collectively have 61 different regions that they  
09:43:04 20 operate under, regional structures. So, the idea  
21 is to bring all them into unified regions.

22           There would be a Regional Director. So,  
23 superstructure over the top of that unified region.

1           It doesn't impact the Bureau's regional  
2 management, but we provide -- You can think of them  
3 kind of like project managers. So, this Director  
4 would be responsible for the decisions that come  
09:43:30 5 out of that region, making sure that the bureaus,  
6 the multiple bureaus that are involved in each  
7 division are working together, coordinating from  
8 the very beginning on this.

9           And, he's sort of cracking the whip on  
09:43:42 10 the, the, the regional management and regional  
11 staff of each of those bureaus that are involved to  
12 make sure that they're working together; that the  
13 timeline for the staff that, you know, that are  
14 working, the timeline for the decision, that the  
09:43:57 15 end of the day, that this gets done faster, better  
16 coordinated.

17           And, he will be responsible for making  
18 sure the decision happens. If it requires  
19 elevation to Washington, D.C., then he will be the  
09:44:10 20 one to take it.

21           He will be reporting directly to the  
22 Deputy Secretary, and the only -- So, ideally, the,  
23 the only reason that the decision would be elevated

1 is if there would be, really, policy decisions that  
2 needed to be made, and that all the Bureaus that  
3 are still working on that decision aren't  
4 necessarily on the same page.

09:44:32

5 So, that would be the only reason for  
6 the elevation to the Deputy Secretary, who would  
7 then forward it to the Assistant Secretary. With  
8 all those bureaus, they would resolve whatever  
9 policy issue it is, and they would be sent back  
10 down for the, for the decision to be put out for  
11 the, you know, regional director.

09:44:42

12 So, when you look -- When you step back  
13 and you look at how decisions are made  
14 Department-wide that require this input from  
15 different agencies, you sort of buy three primary  
16 functions, or three primary types of decisions that  
17 we also have to have input from other, the other  
18 Bureaus.

09:44:54

09:45:11

19 One is Recreation, two is Conservation,  
20 and three is Permitting. So, if you go backwards,  
21 I think that you guys do just enough permitting or  
22 you are involved, have reason to be involved with  
23 the permitting with BLM, et cetera, or if anybody

1 (inaudible).

2 And, so, again, the idea being that the  
3 decision from the lead agency (inaudible) should be  
4 different from these other agencies, making sure it  
09:45:31 5 happens in a timely fashion. That's really  
6 important.

7 Part of our service, service, part of  
8 our responsibility is to the Tribes, to American  
9 people, et cetera.

09:45:40 10 Conservation, we can wrap up in  
11 conservation the environmental work that we do.  
12 Again, the environmental reviews that we do are,  
13 are really important, not just because we're  
14 required to do it by law, obviously, but also  
09:45:53 15 because it, it's a big part of the whole decision,  
16 making sure that we're being environmentally  
17 responsible, good stewards.

18 Those decisions always require other  
19 agencies to have input. It's, it, it's actually  
09:46:07 20 very rare that we have an instance in which -- And,  
21 you can, you can take almost anything.

22 If you're going to, you know, put a  
23 bridge across a river, or something like that,



1 right? It impacts multiple bureaus.

2 And, so, to get those reviews done in a  
3 timely fashion, right now different bureaus, on  
4 their own timelines, come up with their  
09:46:29 5 Environmental Reviews. And, at an end point they  
6 try to reconcile them.

7 Sometimes they aren't able to reconcile  
8 them. Even if they do, we've created a rather,  
9 through the different bureaus, where we have  
09:46:44 10 questions raised about the ultimate decision coming  
11 out of that review.

12 So, by consolidating the decision, or  
13 consolidating the review, we'll have those agencies  
14 working together from the very beginning on one  
09:46:57 15 environmental review process. Again, cut down the  
16 time.

17 Cuts down on the, sort of the varied  
18 viewpoints so we can have a better decision at the  
19 end of the day. Why is this important?

09:47:12 20 Well, I'll tell you. Frankly, you know,  
21 we get sued almost by every decision that we make,  
22 by everybody, all right?

23 And, the environmental reviews that we

1 do are obviously a big part of, sort of the opening  
2 door for the outside parties to, to sue us and  
3 challenge the decisions that we make.

09:47:35 4 And, I, I would ultimately -- My view of  
5 this is ultimately that the decisions that the  
6 Department makes on your behalf, on behalf of  
7 Tribes and individual Indians, is part of our trust  
8 responsibility.

09:47:46 9 So, if we don't have a good decision,  
10 meaning not just a decision that's good for the  
11 Tribe, it's a decision that we can defend, then we  
12 haven't done our job. So, when we do things that  
13 invites litigation and invites the opportunity for  
14 other folks to sue us, we're not doing our job very  
09:47:53 15 well.

16 So, I think the primary function of this  
17 conservation leg is to get us, Interior, itself, on  
18 a better page as far as the way we make decisions  
19 on your behalf.

09:48:12 20 The third one, the third one is  
21 recreation. And, this one, if you think about it  
22 first blush, I know you really probably get  
23 involved more, you know, in Parks and, and Fish and

1 Wildlife, et cetera.

2 But, again, the decision that they need  
3 to get involved in recreation, and the Secretary  
4 was, really intended this be one of the primary,  
09:48:35 5 one of the primary functions because of the size of  
6 the recreation industry in this country.

7 It's over \$800 billion. And, he wanted  
8 to be sure that Indian Country would have a chance  
9 to be a part of that (inaudible).

09:48:47 10 So, when we -- They had other Bureau --  
11 Parks, they have a recreation project that they are  
12 doing.

13 Right now they kind of do it in a silo.  
14 And, they end up doing it in isolation.

09:48:54 15 And, even if they have, like on the  
16 Reservation, if they have another project nearby,  
17 they don't make any effort to connect those. Like,  
18 they don't go to Fish and Wildlife to say, "Hey,  
19 we're doing this RV park. We know you've got  
09:49:09 20 trails up there. You want to try to hook us up?"

21 They just -- They don't do that. So,  
22 the idea is that we have more, you know, officially  
23 recreational opportunities (inaudible).

1           That opens up a trust. Now, typically  
2   in this part of the country, with large vehicles,  
3   large cultivations, you have lots of opportunity,  
4   recreational opportunity that (inaudible).

09:49:31

5           The Secretary's vision is he believed he  
6   could be involved in Interior's input into the  
7   recreation industry and we'd be able to tag along  
8   with that. So, I think that's a really important  
9   part for Tribes to consider on that, on that third  
10   leg of the, the functions.

09:49:45

11           At the end of the day, though, our  
12   missions stay the same. I want to try to make this  
13   clear as, as we can.

09:49:57

14           Our mission for Indian Affairs and for  
15   the Department (inaudible) is to support, support  
16   the Tribes. We (inaudible).

09:50:10

17           And, so, these three functions I'm  
18   talking about are functions that each Tribe does in  
19   their own way. I mean, each group does in their  
20   own way.

21           But, the ultimate mission is to  
22   facilitate and support tribal sovereignty. So,  
23   hopefully that's the outcome if we are able to have

1 better decision-making.

2 I mentioned there's nine Bureaus, 61  
3 regions. How, how, how are these regions --  
4 Where's the map?

09:50:32 5 There we go. I think I'll just, you  
6 know, skip to the map.

7 I can tell you. So, how, how, how was  
8 this map first derived?

9 So, as I said, the Bureaus were kind of  
09:50:45 10 added into it ad hoc over a century and a-half.

11 The Bureaus themselves developed their own regions.

12 So, ad hoc, if they felt it fit their  
13 need to serve, or whatever their, their purpose  
14 was, their, their functions, their mission. And,

09:51:03 15 so, nobody has taken a look at, before, at whether  
16 we could actually have this kind of geographic  
17 region for this, you know, inner Bureaus to  
18 operate, and that would facilitate this.

19 So, the Secretary had to -- We had this  
09:51:13 20 Bureau called the United States Geological Survey.  
21 And, really, they're a bunch of scientists.

22 And, so, he went to them first off and  
23 said: Coincide all the maps right now, all the

1 State boundaries and all these other things that,  
2 that have been used over time to create different  
3 regions in the Bureau, and if you were starting  
4 from scratch, how, what, how would you do it?

09:51:38

5 And, so, if you look at the  
6 Department-wide, you look at what does the  
7 Department do?

8 It does fish and it does minerals and it  
9 does watersheds. And, we've got wildlife  
10 corridors.

09:51:47

11 We've got watersheds. And, and, we have  
12 Tribes.

13 And, Tribes oftentimes -- And, sometimes  
14 it's very obvious why they've done what they've  
15 done, but a lot of tribal areas also follow some of  
16 the same patterns. And, so, if you work those out  
17 and you do, do it, do it kind of from a scientist  
18 perspective, and, and ways you can best serve a  
19 geographic region, you know, and sort of what  
20 happens in that region, how would you do it?

09:51:56

09:52:11

21 And, so, that's how they came up with  
22 this basic map. And, we have overlaid on this, in  
23 the colors.

1 I don't know how easy it is to see.

2 But, so, our current resources are in colors, and  
3 then the black lines would be in the new unified  
4 regions, this new thing.

09:52:30

5 So, so, so, the idea, again, being that  
6 you can have better decision-making in this unified  
7 region. The, the -- We talk about this a lot of  
8 the times, right?

09:52:49

9 We don't have enough resources out in  
10 the field, right? I know you guys have heard the  
11 pitch with the Agency.

12 Our guys aren't as staffed as they  
13 should be. And, so, one of the, the ultimate goals  
14 with, in this, as well, is with better

09:53:02

15 decision-making we would be able to access -- Right  
16 now we have to have -- Each Bureau and each office  
17 has to have staff for each function, right?

18 So, -- And, I think we have --

09:53:12

19 Officially we think we can do all that with shared  
20 resources.

21 And, we actually do this in some places.

22 I know for the Bureau of Rec guys here, I know you  
23 interact with our office here a lot.

1           But, we don't do that enough. And, so,  
2 one would be to increase the resources available if  
3 we have more coordination between the, between the  
4 different Bureaus.

09:53:28

5           And, then, at the end of the day, this  
6 is intended to create more, more cost efficiency,  
7 as well. And, the Secretary's agenda has been as,  
8 as we ream costs and get more resources made  
9 available in, in the regions, we will keep that  
10 there.

09:53:45

11           It's not going to be pulled out for the  
12 Budget. It's not going to be pulled to D.C., or  
13 anything.

09:53:56

14           We'll keep it. So, we can be better  
15 staffed, and serve, serve the Tribes better.

16           The other Bureaus hopefully will be  
17 serving their, their constituents, as well. So,  
18 (inaudible) the Director will report directly to  
19 the Deputy Secretary.

09:54:10

20           He will focus on core, three core  
21 functions: facilitating problem solving,  
22 facilitating coordination between the, the  
23 Agencies, and, and, so, this is all part of the



1 sales job here.

2 The services for the American people,  
3 reduce jurisdictional barriers. These are all the  
4 things we've been talking about.

09:54:36

5 But, hopefully, at the end of the day  
6 it's how we'll support the Tribes better. I'll  
7 leave this up so we have -- This is the  
8 consultation schedule that we have.

09:54:46

9 From here on Monday we go to  
10 Albuquerque, and then to California. And, then we  
11 have a, a few-week break until the end of July, and  
12 then we pick up with four more.

09:55:00

13 In the meantime, obviously we appreciate  
14 your comments, your oral comments here. If you  
15 have any written comments here, please submit them  
16 to, to Elizabeth.

09:55:13

17 Those will all be part of the Record.  
18 But, we also have, you can also submit written  
19 comments, as well, to [consultation@BIA.gov](mailto:consultation@BIA.gov), and  
20 that will all be part of the Record as we begin to  
21 review this and look at that.

22 So, I would say, one, if, if you want a  
23 little bit of a view into how this could operate,

1 Alaska obviously is a unique situation, right?

2 It's a region for us.

3 It's also, it's a single region for us.

4 It's also a single region for a lot of other

09:55:38 5 Bureaus.

6 So, they're looking there. They

7 essentially have, you know, a unified Region

8 already.

9 What we don't have is coordination in

09:55:46 10 the Bureaus in that, in that Region. So, they're

11 already working on that there.

12 They're also looking at shared services.

13 We have buildings, you know, like in, in Anchorage,

14 where we have three Bureaus, but none of them share

09:56:00 15 any staff to do any common issues that we have,

16 even like HR services, IT services.

17 Each of them has their own people. So,

18 they're already working there on some of those

19 back-office issues, and coordinating those better.

09:56:13 20 They're working formally on establishing

21 better decision-making across the Bureaus for, just

22 to make for -- They do a pretty good job up there

23 already anyways. They interact with each other

1 pretty well.

2 So, if you want to just take a look at  
3 your place, I believe we have a lot here. Maybe  
4 you could share with folks, too, at some point.

09:56:33

5 We have a (inaudible) as well in  
6 California, Sacramento, the Pacific Region. There  
7 are the, the different Bureaus.

09:56:47

8 Regions don't match up there, but  
9 Sacramento has a common office for one of the, the,  
10 the Bureau's Regional Offices. So, we have our  
11 Regional Office in the building, along with, I  
12 believe it's BLM and COR, Fish and Wildlife.

09:57:05

13 And, when we had the (inaudible) people  
14 in in January, one of the comments that the  
15 Regional Director of California, including ours,  
16 made was how great it was when they needed input on  
17 a decision, or they needed to get some, some  
18 facilitation from one of the other Bureaus for a  
19 decision that they're making, that they can just  
20 run across the hallway.

09:57:20

21 One of the challenges that you face when  
22 you have decisions that require multiple Bureaus is  
23 even though we have all this electronic

1 communications, is that it's always best  
2 facilitated face-to-face, in person. So, the,  
3 the -- In a different group you'll always have sort  
4 of, you don't always have the same sort of  
09:57:37 5 priority.

6 You don't necessarily have the same  
7 priorities. It's not necessarily a priority for  
8 Fish and Wildlife, but when those Regional  
9 Directors can run across the hallway and say, "No,  
09:57:52 10 I really, really need this done. Can you get it?"  
11 to their counterpart, they're able to facilitate,  
12 you know, getting that priority moved up so that  
13 their position can remain (inaudible).

14 So, anyway, that's, that's sort of the  
09:58:03 15 idea of how it could work on, on a day-to-day  
16 basis. Given you the map.

17 Talked myself into a little space where  
18 I'm ready to, anxious to hear from you guys and,  
19 and what your comments are. And, I don't know.

09:58:25 20 So, I am, I will we'll add this to -- Do  
21 we have a list of folks that they signed in? Do  
22 you have a list, or would you prefer that?

23 Or, would you prefer just to go around

1 the room, let everybody have a chance to talk? I  
2 don't know.

3 I'll leave that (inaudible) to you guys,  
4 and remind you that we also have to wrap up by 1:00  
09:58:55 5 o'clock.

6 Chairman.

7 MR. OSGOOD: Yes, sir. Before I begin,  
8 though, it's customary for the Tribes -- Why don't  
9 you give her that one. It's, so, I know you're  
09:59:14 10 (inaudible).

11 THE MODERATOR: Really. Wow.

12 MR. OSGOOD: (Inaudible.) Appreciate  
13 you coming out to demonstrate the Executive Order  
14 on Reorganization. I have a pretty long laundry  
09:59:44 15 list of questions, but I also am an optimist.

16 I just, at this point, we have, among  
17 tribal leaders, we met yesterday, and we covered  
18 quite a few things. And, it was near to the heart  
19 of a lot of the tribal leaders in the Rocky  
10:00:05 20 Mountains that they're not proponents of the  
21 reorganization, only because of Treaty applications  
22 and so forth.

23 And, if, how would this reorganization,

1 I guess, in an optimistic way, could they be  
2 reaffirmed, or could they be improved in the -- You  
3 know, all different angles, all different  
4 experiences that every Tribe has (inaudible) as  
5 well.

10:00:35

6 And, when we talk about the budgeting,  
7 the national budgeting, we see the flaws in the  
8 budgeting, itself. So, does the reorganization  
9 take that into consideration?

10:00:56

10 And, should we have --

11 THE MODERATOR: It does.

12 MR. OSGOOD: It does? It does consider  
13 the budgeting in terms of other (inaudible) or plan  
14 to eliminate, or (inaudible) some Agencies?

10:01:10

15 That being said, I would, I would also  
16 certainly want to (inaudible) about Bureau of  
17 Indian Affairs for minding businesses in the, in  
18 the unit, and visionary or public. But, the other  
19 Agencies don't have, the other Agencies don't have

10:01:34

20 Social Service programs.

21 The other Agencies don't have fish  
22 obligations. Again, it is the elective of the  
23 President to uphold these obligations.

1                   And, yet, (inaudible) to be recognized  
2     for a sovereign nation, whether it's Park Service,  
3     Bureau of Reclamation, and Fish and Wildlife  
4     Services. So, there's a lot more that could be  
10:02:05 5     shared among the tribal leaders, but I just wanted  
6     to express that and welcome you to Billings and I  
7     feel I've do think if I could grab that.

8                   For the Record, I'd like to just read  
9     the Executive Order (inaudible). In the first  
10:02:51 10    section where you, you talk about a Plan to  
11    reorganize governmental function, eliminate  
12    unnecessary agencies.

13                  Then it's Statute, calling on Agencies  
14    and agency programs. You know, the, if there's a  
10:03:11 15    lot more interaction for feedback with Tribes, both  
16    directly and whether it be NCR or another Nation, I  
17    feel that the Plan to be implemented or initiated  
18    in 180 days, which is now?

19                  THE MODERATOR: Correct. But, it would  
10:03:37 20    be effective before then.

21                  MR. OSGOOD: And, those of you leaders  
22    that don't have a copy of the Executive Order, I, I  
23    ask you please to highly look it up. There are,

1 there are some things that are in, in the lives of  
2 the Tribes with (inaudible) or all of the functions  
3 of the Agency, a component, a program are  
4 appropriate for the Federal Government, and would  
10:04:08 5 be better left to State or local Governments, or  
6 the private sector, free enterprise.

7 But, I thought I'd read that. It,  
8 it's -- We, we understand it, it's national. It's  
9 nationwide.

10:04:24 10 The issue I have with that is when you  
11 have the three topics up here of permitting, and  
12 (inaudible) contribution, and the (inaudible),  
13 we're on a Reservation. We understand and provide  
14 that for ourselves.

10:04:41 15 With the Executive Order, that kind of  
16 leaves a needle for those regulatory authorities to  
17 come off or give to the States, and then the States  
18 (inaudible) on the Reservation. And, that's  
19 definitely feared.

10:04:59 20 And, and, that totally violates our  
21 sovereignty, for one. So, one of the major  
22 comments that I believe we all share in this room  
23 today (inaudible).



1                   So, I'm really heavy on that out there.  
2   And, then, the cost of shutting down our region  
3   agency comprised of programs, including the cost of  
4   (inaudible).

10:05:30

5                   But, again, this reorganization may hit  
6   home because of the government circle within the  
7   Reservation allows for economics. And, if that's  
8   taken out or relocated, that also hurts good jobs.

10:05:54

9                   And, again, again, I don't want to waste  
10   time. I know it's valuable, and we have a lot of  
11   leaders in the room, but I'll be sure to  
12   (inaudible).

13                   And, I sure appreciate you giving me the  
14   time to speak. (Inaudible).

10:06:08

15                   THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you  
16   for the -- Thank you for raising those issues.

17                   So, those are, those are really great  
18   questions. Maybe I don't need the mic.

10:06:24

19                   I can be pretty loud. Those are really  
20   good questions.

21                   I, I'd have to say, one, is, so, the  
22   Executive Order came out literally about six weeks  
23   after, I guess, after -- Not quite. -- maybe eight

1 weeks after the President took office. And, I  
2 would really say if that particular work was  
3 written now, it would include Tribes in that list  
4 of Governments.

10:06:48 5 So, he just -- He didn't -- You know,  
6 President didn't have a long history with Indian  
7 Country before he came into the office. And, but,  
8 his staff now have been great working with us, I  
9 have to say.

10:06:59 10 They've been coordinating a lot of  
11 issues on us with education, things that we have to  
12 be able to interact with other Departments, with  
13 Department of Labor and HHS. So, they've, they've  
14 been really great at facilitating that.

10:07:13 15 They have a commitment to respect tribal  
16 sovereignty. They see it as an important part of  
17 our federal responsibilities.

18 And to bring it down to the Department  
19 of Interior, a lot of you guys have met the  
10:07:31 20 Secretary. You know, he, he, he comes from Indian  
21 Country.

22 He's comfortable with the Tribes. He  
23 absolutely supports it.

1           So, everything that we do, you know, is,  
2   is his, has his full support. We are going to try  
3   to do our part in supporting tribal government  
4   doing what they do.

10:07:52

5           That, that comes all the way from the  
6   top of the, of the Department. So, I think that  
7   there are -- One of the, one of the things that the  
8   Secretary has been talking consistently amongst, in  
9   discussions, you know, with the all the Bureaus and  
10:08:11 10   all the things that are department-wide, is, -- I  
11   think I can say this honestly. -- is that he  
12   doesn't view this as an exercise in shrinking the  
13   Department and, and getting rid of people.

10:08:29

14           In fact, his observation, and, and his  
15   public statements always reflect the, in his  
16   experience, going around the country, -- And, he  
17   likes to do that. -- is that we don't have enough  
18   people out in the field.

10:08:41

19           We don't have enough boots on the  
20   ground. He's a military man.

21           He likes to talk about like that. We  
22   don't have enough boots on the ground.

23           So, his vision for the Department is

1 that we will (inaudible), and that will free up  
2 resources that we already have, and then that will  
3 be pushed down as far down as we can to, to the  
4 Field Office, to the Agency office, et cetera.

10:09:01

5 So, that part of it -- And, you know, we  
6 have to plan. But, but, the country is not a great  
7 budget today.

10:09:15

8 You know what I'm saying? If you guys  
9 were in running the government the Kermit runs his,  
10 you probably wouldn't have an office -- Right? --  
11 spending money you don't have.

10:09:31

12 So, the budget figure, looking forward,  
13 is, is, is not, is not great for the United States  
14 in general. We're kind of fortunate we have a lot  
15 of support in Congress for Indian, Indian Health  
16 and for Indian education, and, and, let's see,  
17 (inaudible) probably third, but for the rest of the  
18 Bureau, the BIA's function.

10:09:47

19 But, we have lots of support. Members  
20 of Congress, you know, like, like to support issues  
21 in Indian Country.

22 That's -- So, so, we have a pretty good  
23 level of support that way. So, -- But, given that,

1 we still have to, for our purposes, we have to plan  
2 for tighter budgets. We have those in the past.

3 You know, we, we work internally and we  
4 sort of start in the worse-case scenario and work  
10:10:15 5 our way up from there. But, it -- What I'm trying  
6 to get to is that part of the (inaudible) the  
7 Secretary has is, he's said:

8 "As Secretary, I can't count on Congress  
9 giving me lots of extra money every year. So, how  
10:10:30 10 am I going to be able to -- You know, I have  
11 responsibilities that this wide, and I have a  
12 budget that's about this wide.

13 "How do I get those to match up? Well,  
14 the more efficiencies that can be wringed (sic) out  
15 of my current operations (inaudible) resources mean  
16 (inaudible) responsibilities.

17 So, that's where the priority calls. If  
18 you get new funding, if we get a larger budget by  
19 Congress, you know, in a year, I mean, that's  
20 great.

21 We have lots of places to use it. But,  
22 -- So, for planning purposes, though, we have to  
23 make sure that we're running as good an operation,

1 as efficient an operation as we can.

2 So, that, that, I think, is the -- I  
3 hope that addresses your question. I think it's a  
4 really good question.

10:11:10 5 And, there may be other cabinet Agencies  
6 and their plans. They may propose getting rid of  
7 agencies, et cetera.

8 But, that's not part of our plan.  
9 Secretary has never mentioned anything.

10:11:24 10 In fact, he's constantly asking me, you  
11 know, "Where should we try to find -- Where's the  
12 next place to get resources? What's the next thing  
13 we can do?"

14 So, you guys know we're putting a lot of  
10:11:36 15 money into law enforcement; health (inaudible)  
16 services. We're wrapping up the Drug Enforcement  
17 Task Forces.

18 He's doing a great job of trying to pull  
19 in other, other agencies, other cabinet agencies,  
10:11:46 20 and get their resources to, to commit with ours to,  
21 to do things, though. I mean, those are all good  
22 questions.

23 If you've got another one that comes up,

1 we'll, we'll try to answer it.

2 MR. KILLSBUCK: (Inaudible). Is this --  
3 This one doesn't have -- Jace Killsbuck, President,  
4 Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

10:12:19 5 Thank you, Chairman Osgood. I know we  
6 discussed some topics that we felt incented (sic)  
7 on yesterday and we began to address those.

8 In the presentation, it did raise some  
9 concerns. First of all, the idea that this  
10:12:39 10 Administration is relying on scientists now to help  
11 draw a map for the regions. (Inaudible).

12 We wonder what kind of scientists you  
13 have over there, if any of them are Indian. And,  
14 the other thing about that, why weren't the Tribes  
10:13:07 15 even mentioned there?

16 You're Indian, too, so it would be  
17 better to ask the Indians what we thought of that  
18 restructuring of those Regions. Of those agencies  
19 you mentioned, the (inaudible) of the three primary  
10:27:06 20 functions: Permitting, recreation, and  
21 conservation.

22 And, the fourth function that is crucial  
23 and based on a trust responsibility, and that is

1 services. Services is one function that is missing  
2 in the reorganization.

3 We have social services, we have BIA, we  
4 have law enforcement. We have all those service  
10:13:48 5 programs that our Governments are responsible for,  
6 and we use the Treaty and our contracting to take  
7 those functions over.

8 Those are our lifelines for our  
9 community, especially in our region. We're rural.

10:14:10 10 We're isolated. We're direct-service  
11 Tribes, and we still depend on the Federal  
12 Government for those kind of services.

13 So, I think that's got to be  
14 highlighted, and, and, and that kind of input got  
10:14:28 15 to be observed. Now, I'm a Chairman here.

16 There are other Chairmans here. I'd  
17 like to hear from BIA why isn't, with all this  
18 here, why isn't this occurring without us.

19 We know why. Because of the lack of  
10:14:42 20 fulfilling these positions, these (inaudible) in  
21 the BIA.

22 And, that's what it should be,  
23 consultation should be. While other Regions may be



1 different, and I'm, I'm glad you clarified that how  
2 you guys are down there.

3 But, up here the idea of using the  
4 geography or the (inaudible) systems to clump them  
10:15:10 5 together is something that the Northern Cheyenne  
6 can't support, nor our allies, like our brothers  
7 and sisters, Tribes to the east.

8 And, this next week we'll be celebrating  
9 our killing of Custer. So, you're welcome.

10:15:36 10 But, (Inaudible.) You know, we have a  
11 system here in the Rocky Mountain Region that has  
12 been built on partnerships with the Bureau, and  
13 that relationship has allowed us to be where we're  
14 at as far as the (inaudible) the Rocky Mountain  
10:15:51 15 Region.

16 So, that, through Tribal leadership and  
17 Government leadership. But, everything is  
18 different in different areas, so with certain  
19 biases we know we have to work together through the  
10:16:05 20 issues.

21 We know that there is still  
22 institutional racism. There's still bias in  
23 different regions and different areas of our

1 federal government.

2 We know that after the meeting here,  
3 that the Plains Tribes don't have the same  
4 relationship that Rocky Mountain has with his  
5 Tribes. And these are historic.

10:16:24

6 We've got to take those into  
7 consideration when trying to combine those regions  
8 and those authorities. They aren't -- They're not  
9 the (inaudible) that was put upon these Indian  
10 Tribes.

10:16:39

11 Those are really my major concerns,  
12 because I looked at (inaudible) maps, (inaudible)  
13 and we do this quickly and get it done. I was at  
14 BIA.

15 And, the comment made about the part of  
16 the map being really affected, that's another  
17 reason why we should stop to look at minimizing the  
18 (inaudible). We got a call in yesterday that if  
19 they're going to be (inaudible) programs or  
20 motivational programs, that (inaudible) and Indian  
21 Tribe and Indian services, we need more boots on  
22 the ground.

23 (Inaudible) or responses, make sure that

1 resource that was spoken of for a Tribe (inaudible)  
2 the Bureau, both of those (inaudible) in these  
3 Regions.

4 Also, let's try (inaudible)  
5 special-interest --

6 (Whereupon, the conference operated  
7 interrupted the presentation, after which the  
8 following occurred:)

9 MR. KILLSBUCK: (Inaudible) with the  
10 regionalization of these Interior Directors and  
11 shared resources. And, that (inaudible) work for  
12 (inaudible) relationship with a Trustee (inaudible)  
13 Treaty, and --

14 (Whereupon, the conference operated  
15 interrupted the presentation, after which the  
16 following occurred:)

17 MR. KILLSBUCK: And, and, the power of  
18 rivers, and the plants, and how the Indians go.  
19 It's all in there with animals and trees.

20 And, that's where we belong. But, it's  
21 a very maternalistic approach to (inaudible) and  
22 the fact that we never really had anything in the  
23 process.

1                   And, we, we're doing this quickly.

2                   We're getting it done.

3                   We would say that a change like this,  
4                   doesn't require such a hasty approach. It should  
10:19:43 5                   be done.

6                   It's almost done after the fact. And,  
7                   so, some of, for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, some  
8                   of the questions we had.

9                   But, again, I, I think the Northern  
10:19:54 10                  Cheyenne Tribe representative, my people and my  
11                  base, is opposed to this. And, we're opposed to  
12                  this on behalf of even our Bureau constituents, our  
13                  Bureau employees, our regional employees, our  
14                  regional authorities here, because, like I said,  
10:20:13 15                  this institutional relationship that was made for  
16                  decades now that we don't want to see go away, that  
17                  has helped us in our efforts to become  
18                  self-reliant, self-determined nations,  
19                  self-governments.

10:20:32 20                  And, so, we want to continue to keep  
21                  that relational base, including those authorities  
22                  and those resources. Our fear, my fear is that  
23                  this is the Federal Government again getting out of

1 the Indian business.

2 It seems to happen whenever we get a  
3 Republican Administration. And, we went through  
4 restructuring, reorganizing stovepiping,  
10:20:58 5 streamlining, all these other things that have  
6 happened, and we've never recovered from them, both  
7 nationwide, but also financially.

8 And, the Federal Government has, the  
9 Federal Government was either. So, I want to make  
10:21:16 10 that known, because, that we oppose it.

11 And, if it does happen, I think that  
12 there has to be actions that's taken by the Federal  
13 Government to look at the consultation  
14 recommendations and make sure that those are  
10:21:34 15 included in there (inaudible) before, because if  
16 we, again, went through the steps of meaningful  
17 consultation, you know, we can all (inaudible) that  
18 we disagree with this, and yet maybe make something  
19 meaningful.

10:21:52 20 But, if it's not, then I think that most  
21 of the Tribes make it here today, they have to be  
22 included in those steps to, to regionalize the  
23 Interior. Thank you.

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Chairman  
2 Killsbuck. So, we'll try to, if I can remember  
3 everything you said.

4 So, a really good point on services  
10:22:15 5 aspect. In fact, I kind of have, as one of my  
6 stock talking points about this, is the Deputy and  
7 that the rest of the Department does trees and  
8 rocks and deer and fish and water, and we do  
9 people, because we're really the only one of the,  
10:22:33 10 of the nine Bureaus whose primary focus is on  
11 people.

12 So, appreciate that comment. The reason  
13 that's not in there is really so we're, we're the  
14 only Bureau who has a primary function and its  
10:22:51 15 primary mission to serve people.

16 So, we don't -- We need the other  
17 Bureaus to coordinate with us in achieving that  
18 mission from time to time. But, where we need  
19 their assistance is primarily in these three areas.

10:23:05 20 We don't, we don't necessarily need  
21 their assistance in telling us how to interact with  
22 tribal leadership, how, how the programs that we  
23 have, services that we provide differ. A lot of

1 the things that we do are, are, you know, fairly  
2 unique within the Department.

3 So, what the, the intent of this would  
4 be is the, is, for our purposes, for the Bureau of  
10:23:31 5 Indian Affairs, is to say, you know, through this  
6 structure we'll be able to elevate the decisions  
7 that we need to make on your behalf.

8 That would make those equal with the  
9 other Bureaus and the positions that they have to  
10:23:46 10 make, and the decisions that they do. Right now  
11 that's not how of it happens.

12 Each Bureau is kind of a mud-wrestling  
13 match, right? They have their own priorities.

14 They've got their own dates. They have  
10:23:58 15 (inaudible).

16 It's a struggle to kind of get that in  
17 in a timely fashion. In other Bureaus, if it's not  
18 a priority for my Bureau and for the other Bureau  
19 ahead is, is asking me to put resources in to help  
10:24:13 20 them make a decision, it's not, you know, not,  
21 let's put it it's not in my professional assessment  
22 as an employee, right?

23 And, it's not part of mine, so it

1 doesn't become a priority to me until I'm really  
2 forced to. And, one of the, the consequences of  
3 that historically has been when you have this lack  
4 of coordination and this lack of commonness in  
5 facilitating of decisions is each time, each time  
6 it happens it has to go to Washington, D.C., to be  
7 resolved.

10:24:36

8 Well, you guys probably know whenever we  
9 get something in D.C., it takes a long time to get  
10 it addressed. So, if this facilitation happened  
11 and we could have, say, potential to have it  
12 happening at a regional level, to me, that  
13 facilitates that.

10:24:49

14 That elevates our ability to represent  
15 you within the Department for those decisions,  
16 actually, to the other Bureaus. I don't think  
17 that's been there.

10:25:04

18 In my observation, -- I used to work on  
19 the Hill. I heard tribal leaders there.

10:25:15

20 I heard it from BIA folks back then. My  
21 observation, now it's a struggle for the Bureau of  
22 Indian Affairs to get some of the equal  
23 consideration, equal time from the other Bureaus



1 when they need input from them.

2 And, I think this is a, this is a  
3 mechanism, basically a process to get that, to make  
4 that happen. And, you'll have a Regional Director  
10:25:40 5 who will, you know, basically crack the whip and  
6 make sure that happens.

7 That will be part of his job  
8 responsibility. So, got another question.

9 So, that's how we look at it. It -- I  
10:25:59 10 will say, too, while I would think that the, the  
11 Tribe's responsibility, especially, lies with the  
12 (inaudible) Government, -- Right? -- because  
13 realistically we have a really big part, right?

14 The Department of Interior has the  
10:26:13 15 primary responsibility (inaudible) to serve our  
16 (inaudible), right? It's not just the BIA.

17 And, so, when we can get better respect  
18 for the priority decisions that we need from the  
19 other Bureaus, I think that helps us perform that  
10:26:29 20 mission with you better. Again, from -- Another  
21 comment?

22 MR. KILLSBUCK: I really appreciate  
23 that. And maybe that's something that you could

1 articulate better on your presentation that,  
2 "Here's what's going on with the Interior. Here's  
3 what would happen with the Bureau, whether it's  
4 line of authority or those things you've mentioned.

10:26:50

5           However, with that being said, I would,  
6 I would (inaudible) to impose this, I think we  
7 recommend BIA being exempt from this, because you  
8 guys are a service provider. And, let the other  
9 Agencies deal with permitting, recreation, and  
10 conservation, and let the Bureau be exempt from  
11 this.

10:27:06

12           And, that would only, again, be, be by  
13 recommendation, because I don't think you need to  
14 be telling Tribes that, you know, change is hard  
15 and it's going on in the Federal Government. We,  
16 we understand that.

10:27:24

17           But, actions have already shown that the  
18 current system has been used, and that we, on  
19 current system, as a Bureau, has already shown by  
20 action that there is inconsistencies in getting  
21 some of these decisions made to send up the chain.

10:27:39

22           But, right now I know you guys are, you  
23 don't know who's in charge. And, if you come up --

1 And, some have been waiting months for Headquarters  
2 to get it done.

3 To me, that's not a bureaucracy. To me,  
4 that's leadership.

10:28:07 5 And, there isn't leadership in there to  
6 get things done. And, that may be something to  
7 reevaluate, also, is the leadership in the, the  
8 Bureau.

9 A SPEAKER: My (inaudible) real quickly.  
10:28:23 10 And, I understand the multi-functions of the  
11 multiple agencies you mentioned.

12 One of the things with that is a unified  
13 policy, rather than unifying all the Agencies.  
14 Look at the Policies that are in place.

10:28:43 15 What's the concept of that? And, have a  
16 unified Policy for all Agencies to follow.

17 I mean, there's so many things. This  
18 will be written up in that book.

19 I just have so many questions. But, I  
10:28:54 20 know there's a lot of folks here that, that have  
21 also a lot, many questions. Thank you.

22 A SPEAKER: I think that's a good job.  
23 (Inaudible).

1           And, so, one of the concepts is that if  
2   you have a better leadership in the Region, if you  
3   have a unified Region, you can have unified  
4   Policies to the extent that, you know, if they  
10:29:20 5   facilitate the decision experience you may have in  
6   that Region.

7           But, also, (inaudible) the flexibility  
8   for, you know, that Region. Obviously, different  
9   Regions, different, Tribes in different Regions  
10:29:36 10   have kind of a different way of doing things.

11           You know, some of the other Bureaus,  
12   they have, you know, regional differences around  
13   the Country as well. So, this allows us to have a  
14   little bit of flexibility to meet the unique needs  
10:29:49 15   of that Region.

16           But, we can have better expectation of,  
17   of common Policies, and that's, at the end of the  
18   day, you know, these are the Policies that, you  
19   know, we would institute for Tribes. These are  
10:30:03 20   Policies about, "What is, what is the environmental  
21   review needed for this decision?"

22           (Inaudible.) And, so, instead of us  
23   having the Policy about what we did for

1 environmental reviewing this decision, but BLM  
2 having a different one (inaudible).

3 So, what that means ultimately, that you  
4 will have less decisions that have to be elevated  
10:30:25 5 to the Federal Office, the State, or the Region.  
6 So, we'll work for facilitation for that in many of  
7 those decisions.

8 I want to make sure -- You also raise a  
9 familiar point. I want to try to make it perfectly  
10:30:41 10 clear, the Secretary's commitment that, you know,  
11 we're not restructuring the Bureau.

12 We're not pulling resources out, either  
13 at the 8 level or further up. His intention is to  
14 push resources further down.

10:30:59 15 And, so, first, first, our employees  
16 that, that work with you in the Agency offices,  
17 nobody's trying to shut down an Agency office.  
18 Nobody's trying to move you out.

19 Let them know the Secretary's commitment  
10:31:13 20 to you. And, so, that also -- And, a second point.

21 But, also, though, brings me to, though,  
22 the, the Secretary's commitment has been, from Day  
23 1, that as far as the Tribe's role in this, it's

1 your decision. And, at the end of the day, and, I  
2 hope to, through this consultation, get this  
3 information out, have the initial discussion with  
4 you, and then have another round after you've been  
10:31:43 5 able to chew this.

6 But, at the end of the day, you know, if  
7 Indian Country says, "We want no part of this. We  
8 don't want the BIA, who provides all these services  
9 to us, et cetera, to be a part of this," then the  
10:32:01 10 Secretary says, "I'm not going to force you to, to  
11 do that. You can do it."

12 You can make that decision. There are  
13 some Regions of the country that, that do want to  
14 have a unified Region with the other Bureaus, okay?

10:32:14 15 And, we'll try to facilitate that as  
16 best way we can with other, with other Regions that  
17 don't want to do that. So, that's what we've got  
18 to try to work through.

19 But, I will say, if Indian Country  
10:32:30 20 doesn't want to be part of this, or even if, if  
21 most of Indian Country doesn't want to be a part of  
22 this, you're allowed to do that. And, you'll have  
23 to figure out, you know, how Bureau of Indian

1 Affairs is going to interact with these few  
2 (inaudible), and that will just be, you know, all  
3 these people will come to you and get your input,  
4 and that will be part of that (inaudible) at the  
10:32:53 5 end of the day if that decision is made not to.

6 MR. KILLSBUCK: That's (inaudible) the  
7 trade, right there. That should have been done.  
8 Maybe we'll get there.

9 A SPEAKER: And, I think I want to  
10:33:09 10 correct the following: The Uniform Policy yet is  
11 an alternative to restructuring, not, you know, if  
12 they restructure, there will be a Policy with  
13 uniform anyway.

14 We were saying there could be a Policy  
10:33:24 15 that requires, you know, that uniform process to go  
16 through with approvals of authorities. So, --.

17 THE MODERATOR: It's sort of underway  
18 now. We have to think to try to get things like  
19 wildlife biologicals, biological issues,  
10:33:42 20 environmental issues done.

21 You know, the Deputy Secretary has  
22 issued some Directives to the Regions in the  
23 various Bureaus, but -- It's better without the

1 mic.

2 MR. STAFNE: You know, no disrespect,  
3 but maybe we should limit the, the responses to you  
4 so we can get one representative from one Tribe can  
10:34:13 5 be on the Record and commentate (inaudible). So,  
6 with that, I, I, I want to introduce myself.

7 My name is Grant Stafne. I am the  
8 representative for the Fort Peck Assiniboine and  
9 Sioux Tribes.

10:34:28 10 I'm the Chairman of the Land Committee.  
11 So, maybe that might stand for something.

12 But, I do hear quite a bit of comments  
13 about who, who drew up this map. It's the  
14 scientists, correct?

10:34:46 15 Is that the same scientist from the  
16 Administration that said there's no such thing as  
17 global warming? But, what does that have to do?

18 But, you know, this is a consultation.  
19 And, my opinion with consultation is the Department  
10:35:04 20 of superior has already made up their mind.

21 They're telling us how it's going to be,  
22 and they just want to appease the, the, the Tribes  
23 and get some comments on Record.



1                   That's all this is. They're possibly  
2 going to have to work with us (inaudible), but  
3 there is a glimmer of hope.

4                   The Assistant Secretary was up at the  
10:35:26 5 our Reservation. You followed Secretary Zinke.

6                   And, there is a glimmer of hope by  
7 Secretary Zinke saying if the Tribes don't want  
8 this -- I forgot. I wrote the words down here. --  
9 we won't do it.

10:35:48 10                   He gave us a glimmer of hope. I'm not  
11 sure if he stands by that, but he did.

12                   It's hope for me. Let's see here.

13                   He, he stated that it, it, it's a long  
14 ways to come to this meeting. You, you stated that  
10:36:05 15 before this started.

16                   And, you know, there's one Regional  
17 Office now over in Canada, according to these maps.  
18 That means how far are you guys going to be driving  
19 for each visit, you know, there?

10:36:17 20                   You know, that's a long ways there.  
21 I'll drive 300 miles if I come to see the Regional  
22 Director.

23                   But, you know, but I'm going to say it

1 really is based on financial. You're, you're  
2 trying to save money.

3 To me, the way to save money is, is just  
4 the Office of Special Trustee of American Indians  
10:36:42 5 that has a budget higher than the BIA. The BIA  
6 does all the work for our tribes.

7 I'm sure a lot of it you guys  
8 (inaudible) and all you need is, you know, for the  
9 -- I did work for the BIA years ago, and, you know,  
10:37:06 10 now I'm with Tribal Council. And, you know, I do  
11 feel like I feel a little bit better.

12 I continue on my own better, you know,  
13 rather than being a bureaucrat. You know.

14 I, I can generally state my mind. Oh, I  
10:37:22 15 see they had a sunset clause.

16 They had one since 1997, '98. I think  
17 it's time to put up that sunset clause.

18 Their budget, like I stated here  
19 earlier, their budget is higher than the Bureau of  
10:37:37 20 Indian Affairs. You know, I've been to the office  
21 in Albuquerque where there's 500 employees, and  
22 they're all SDS employees, which is higher than the  
23 GS- 15.

1           And, they're employees, FCS employees  
2           compared to GS employees. And, (inaudible).

3           You want to save money, there's your,  
4           there's your program right there. I don't want  
10:38:11 5           (inaudible) go to them, you know, (inaudible) go  
6           into the Bureau.

7           When I worked there there was one  
8           individual that took care of all IM accounts. And,  
9           now you have, you know, the GS, the highly paid  
10:38:28 10          federal employee on the Reservation assuming the  
11          same thing.

12          (Inaudible) than that. Other than that,  
13          I want to thank you for listening to me, and I want  
14          to go on the Record that Fort Peck is against this.

10:38:51 15          A SPEAKER: Good morning again. I agree  
16          with a lot of the comments already mentioned.

17          It's good to hear actually a, somewhat  
18          of a Plan coming forward in a consultation. You  
19          know, we've come before, and basically there was no  
10:39:10 20          information on the Government's side.

21          And, the Tribes could complain all they  
22          want, and say, "We don't like it," but at least  
23          there's something in writing, which, which I

1 appreciate that. And, also, looking at what you  
2 have, I guess, or as Chairman Not Afraid talked  
3 about the Executive Order to establish a lot of the  
4 guidelines (inaudible).

10:39:38

5 It looks like there was a lot of  
6 discussion over the past year that I think a lot of  
7 Tribes (inaudible) this Plan, including a lot of  
8 things, you know, that had been coming up in the  
9 national papers you read in Indian Country and all  
10 these places.

10:39:57

11 But, one of the things that you don't,  
12 you don't, as the Administration, as well as the  
13 Interior aren't dealing with, is the discussion of  
14 moving BIA top two people that were there. And,  
15 and, it's mentioned where there was a lot of  
16 knowledge and insight to how to work.

10:40:12

17 So, you guys, you're having this, this  
18 discussion with people who haven't really  
19 technically been with the Tribes. They're people  
20 that have been reassigned.

10:40:31

21 Actually, they were -- You know, that  
22 was such a -- Because, one of the examples here,  
23 you look in the Rocky Mountain Region, you look at

1 the Title Plan. It's here, right here in Billings.

2 So, we talked about a reorganization.

3 You know, where is that going to go?

4 I mean, there's a statement that there's

10:40:55 5 a hard thing being discussed because the, the key

6 thing I see in this is you, you go talking about

7 your presentation. Oh, there's going to be this

8 budget.

9 There's going to be a budget. There's

10:41:05 10 going to be -- You know, we're, we're not going to

11 do this and we're not going to cut that.

12 But, one of the things that you hear

13 nationally, again, as, as you mentioned over and

14 over, I mean, was the cuts. Well, it's not going

10:41:17 15 to affect Indian Country.

16 But, what I see is people (inaudible).

17 Oh, we're going to have savings.

18 Well, really, people suffer. And,

19 Indian Country has already faced that.

10:41:29 20 And, as you look at the discussion with

21 the military, what (inaudible) increase (inaudible)

22 Tribe.

23 You've got the Border discussion. Same

1 thing.

2 So, when, when we talk about this  
3 consultation and how we're looking at it, your  
4 question I haven't heard yet, is, okay, we can have  
10:41:44 5 this, but what is the impact to Tribes? And, if  
6 you're talking about service, that's obviously  
7 going to have an impact.

8 And you've already talked about how this  
9 tight budget is already going to happen for the,  
10:41:57 10 for the Governor. Well, you know, I was looking  
11 around at a few things that Zinke was saying.

12 We have a lot of energy. But, if you  
13 look at (inaudible), because we haven't had a visit  
14 from the Secretary, himself, either.

10:42:08 15 You know, we're, we're one of the few  
16 large land-based tribes with 2.2 million acres in  
17 Wyoming. You know, we have two Tribes.

18 We've, we've never heard any of this  
19 discussion; only a briefing of what he said would  
10:42:22 20 happen. But, we look at the comments here about  
21 why did we have this organization?

22 And, I would agree. You know, it's  
23 going to happen, because you look at, you know,

1 what, what he's stated, you know, and he's already  
2 referred to what President Trump has already said  
3 about, you know, doing away with all of this, this  
4 overspending and the issues, you know, in the  
10:42:43 5 government.

6 And, you know, he talked about this as a  
7 military approach for him. And, again, you know,  
8 it's like history repeating itself.

9 You know, Tribes remember this, what  
10:42:53 10 happened to them. You know, this, this is a  
11 military action that he has stated not once, not  
12 twice, but almost in every speech that he talks  
13 about.

14 That's my concern when I look at this.  
10:43:06 15 And, again, as, as the Tribes, you know, we will  
16 know some things the people cut.

17 So, the thing is, you look at the Rocky  
18 Mountain Region, you look at the Great Plains, my  
19 question that comes across is: Why are, why are  
10:43:20 20 these two regions put together?

21 You, you know. I mean, that's one of my  
22 biggest questions.

23 Why? Why would there be a savings?

1           Because, you know, let's be honest about  
2 this. You know, to the Tribes that are here,  
3 that's what's equal.

4           You know. And, that's my concern as we  
10:43:37 5 talked about this, because I know for the Eastern  
6 Shoshoni Tribe, I know that we don't support this  
7 because (inaudible).

8           You know, we're kind of the step-child  
9 here because what we get today is a, is a plan that  
10:43:47 10 now, you know, the Tribes in Wyoming are going to  
11 be part of this Colorado Basin. I mean, and this,  
12 this is what I've seen now.

13           I've seen -- Last month we've seen two  
14 maps. I was told that the one had to do with the  
10:44:01 15 national forest.

16           I'd agree this is going to happen, but I  
17 think I do want to challenge in saying the Tribes  
18 are against this. You know, the Tribes really have  
19 to speak.

10:44:15 20           But, again, the one thing that I'm  
21 concerned about for Tribes to remember is that  
22 we're also have to represent yourself. And, and,  
23 you know, we act as parent, and you're telling us,



1 "Oh, I'm going to take care of you."

2 But, this is going to be another on of  
3 the examples that I really hope doesn't happen, but  
4 I think is, is a possibility, because we are still  
10:44:37 5 part of the Government. And, that's one of the two  
6 things that nobody's discussing.

7 But, you know, I've held out that we'll  
8 have written comment, but I just wanted to make  
9 those comments, you know, just looking at where  
10:44:48 10 we're at, because I, I would be willing to keeping  
11 things is same, because if they had to look at the  
12 reorganization of the Bureau, I would agree.

13 I would agree with the Bureau. But,  
14 there has to be some big internal fixes, because we  
10:45:07 15 still deal with, you know, issues that, whether  
16 it's oil and gas leases or -- I've, I've, I deal  
17 with that stuff.

18 And, oil rigs -- You know, we've already  
19 had to live through that. You know, we've already  
10:45:11 20 had it here.

21 You know, we've accrued something.  
22 That's, you know, internally with the Bureau; yes,  
23 but not regional.

1                   And, to me, that, you know, when, when  
2 we look at any organization that's reorganized,  
3 what's going to happen? It costs you to  
4 reorganize.

10:45:28 5                   If there was somebody here in Billings  
6 that wanted to move these offices to another  
7 downtown building, (inaudible), well, where's that  
8 that money coming from? Oh, it's going to be the  
9 savings.

10:45:36 10                  That's what it's going to be. I mean,  
11 -- And, you just have to be honest with, you know,  
12 because I'd like to see as we move forward with  
13 this, it's actually the budget you're talking  
14 about.

10:45:48 15                  The money you're talking about is  
16 written down and saying, "This is how this is going  
17 to work."

18                  Because you can sit up there and, and  
19 say, "Oh, yeah. You know, we've discussed this for  
10:45:57 20 almost a week," because you look at the internal  
21 overhead of the Bureau right now, and all the  
22 Regional Directors out here, or sitting in  
23 Washington, D.C., and acting, you know, (inaudible)

1 our Regional Director that was here (inaudible) he  
2 told me last month (inaudible).

3 Look at what are the Regional Directors.  
4 You know what that means.

10:46:17 5 Well, they all want to act like business  
6 managers. Well, if you look at the Regional  
7 Directors, half of them are all Acting, you know.

8 And, that's another key for Tribes to  
9 remember if something's moving forward. Because,  
10:46:30 10 after these Regional Directors, what happened in  
11 one of the, the things that I'm advocating,  
12 especially for the large land-based Tribes, because  
13 you have Navajo, who's going to be cut in half.

14 You know, (inaudible) is a competition.  
10:46:43 15 (Inaudible) some of the people (inaudible) are just  
16 fighting over this small piece. You know, we are.

17 And, and, yet, the economy gets bigger.  
18 You know, I've never heard a (inaudible) saying,  
19 "Oh, well, you know, there's (inaudible)."

10:46:56 20 That's not true. You know, it seems to  
21 be get smaller and smaller.

22 But, even in this plan and, and even  
23 with the Interior Zinke's talking about, you know,

1 it's not going to make it easier for a lot of  
2 Tribes, especially smaller Tribes who don't have  
3 more resources.

10:47:19 4 And, so, I, I would have, as you move  
5 forward with this presentation, you guys  
6 (inaudible) that. Show us the Budget.

7 Show us how these impacts are going to  
8 happen. And, I, I'm interested in that.

9 So, I guess with that I'll, you know,  
10:47:30 10 I'll, I'll, I'll pass the mic on. But, I would  
11 hope that, you know, (inaudible) not just in Indian  
12 Country, but this whole national budget would look  
13 like, especially in a reorganization, because I, I  
14 would tend to figure with people moving from east  
10:47:46 15 to Albuquerque right now, that costs a pretty  
16 penny, you know.

17 And, I -- And, I would hope that you  
18 guys would be able to show what that would cost.  
19 So, you know, with that I know we will have written  
10:47:55 20 comments, but I just wanted to say a few words.

21 Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Charlie. And  
23 I think, you know, you have really good point.

1           The -- If -- The point about our own  
2 internal organization, or if you want to call it,  
3 you know, I, I think of it more ss, as trying to  
4 improve our organizational excellence, right? And,  
10:48:24 5 so, that's sort of the ongoing effort.

6           I guess somebody would think that the  
7 Bureau's doing a (sic) A-plus job. So, obviously  
8 there's room for improvement.

9           So, we do have here -- Obviously we do  
10:48:40 10 have -- A lot of things are happening, you know.  
11 So, we have a proposal through OST back under  
12 (inaudible), and to be a (sic) appropriate step  
13 towards funding the federal Trustee.

14           There's a lot of Tribes that don't want  
10:48:54 15 that to happen, so -- But, at least an additional  
16 step is to, is to bring it back out, immediate  
17 Office of Secretary into, into the Assistant  
18 Secretary's Office.

19           And, so, there's some structural things  
10:49:10 20 like that that are underway. A lot of those  
21 require, like OST, requires congressional action to  
22 effectuate that.

23           And, and, right now Congress isn't doing

1 a whole lot. So, that's a -- And, then we have to,  
2 you know, try to figure out how to work with it.

3 And, staffing is a, -- I'd have to say  
4 this. -- is, is, is a cause for concern.

10:49:34 5 It should be -- It's a cause of concern  
6 to me. It should be a cause of concern to you.

7 And, we have -- So, we don't have enough  
8 staff now, and a large part of that is we struggled  
9 to, we struggled to find the folks who qualified  
10:49:51 10 for the positions that we have open. So, -- And,  
11 we -- And, and, it's only getting worse.

12 Across the Department, the Interior's  
13 workforce, in five years, 40 percent of them are  
14 going to be eligible for retirement. That's a,  
10:50:09 15 that's just a fact we have to deal with.

16 It's pretty much the same with us at  
17 anyplace. And, at BIA, Forty percent of our  
18 employees will be eligible for retirement.

19 That's a huge brain drain. And, what  
10:50:26 20 that means is, that's a huge brain drain because  
21 those are senior people that are retiring because  
22 they've been there and made careers out of it, and  
23 now they're leaving.

1                   We're losing all that staff. So, now  
2 we're losing all that built-in knowledge.

3                   I would say honestly that we have not  
4 done, the organization has not done a good job of  
10:50:44 5 preparing our next level, our next generation of  
6 leadership. We don't have the level of sort of  
7 mid-level leadership who should be ready to step  
8 up.

9                   I think we haven't done a good job of  
10:50:54 10 that over the years, training, is my observation.  
11 So, that, you know, that's an issue we have to deal  
12 with.

13                   What that means, too, in the short term  
14 is, you know, sometimes we scramble. We do have to  
10:51:03 15 put, you know, Acting Directors in place because we  
16 have people who technically we have told put into  
17 positions that they can't stay at because they  
18 don't qualify for the (inaudible).

19                   They have the skills and the, the  
10:51:15 20 ability to do the job, but they don't have -- You  
21 know, We have a lot of workplace rules that apply.  
22 So, we also have to work through that.

23                   So, that's, that's a, a, that's a

1 long-term challenge that we face. And, we, we're  
2 starting to look at that.

3 We're starting to try to get back to --  
4 Years ago, the Department, and the BIA in  
10:51:36 5 particular, had a large internal training program,  
6 so, also to help our staff get training in the  
7 e-book leadership, as well as, you know, position  
8 training, et cetera.

9 So, we're, we're trying to -- We're  
10:51:53 10 coming back to that, as well, so we can start  
11 developing our, our own workforce in turn, as well.  
12 I've been trying to do that.

13 I've beamed around the country trying  
14 to, you know, trying to develop people. BIA could  
10:52:07 15 be a good career, especially to young people coming  
16 out, you know.

17 Think about that. Thirty years ago the  
18 BIA had about 15,000 employees.

19 We're below seven- now. But, a good  
10:52:20 20 chunk -- There's (inaudible) around the country.

21 What it means, sort of generally  
22 speaking, is the Tribes took a lot of those people  
23 for a lot of those jobs. We have self-governance.



1                   We have self-determination. I tried to  
2 pull a lot of (inaudible) 30 years ago. They  
3 pulled them in (inaudible), which is what's  
4 supposed to happen.

10:52:40

5                   I mean, we're supposed to be supporting  
6 the Tribes. So, that has, that has moved a lot of  
7 our workforce into tribal land, tribal government,  
8 and we have -- But, we still have the same  
9 functions that we had to do, you know, the same  
10 (inaudible) functions, you know, that we have to  
11 have, ultimately, signed off by a Bureau employee.

10:52:52

12                   And, we have not done, one, we have not  
13 done a good job of preparing and, and recruiting  
14 people for that. And, two, we haven't done, we  
15 actually haven't (inaudible), we haven't done a  
16 great job of making sure, as we're doing 63(d) or  
17 self-governance Compacts with Tribes, that we are  
18 training enough staff behind to hopefully do the  
19 (inaudible) that we had before.

10:53:07

10:53:23

20                   What that means for you is, even though  
21 you've contracted or you've contacted the function  
22 or a service or whatever, if it has, we have to  
23 sign off by, you know, the Regional Office, if

1 there's not somebody there whose job it is to do  
2 that, then, then it takes longer to get that final.

3 That slows down decision-making on our  
4 part, as well. So, I don't know.

10:53:50 5 And, that's a good question about the  
6 budget, and I hope we have more information on that  
7 in the future. And, it really (inaudible)  
8 consultation.

9 It's supposed to be, or tends to be sort  
10:53:59 10 of our initial, you know, discussion about this.

11 It's always a fine line for us, as you know,  
12 because I don't want to waste your time coming to  
13 you with some ideals that are nothing to talk about  
14 and waste your time.

10:54:13 15 And, I don't want to come when you're  
16 saying, "Oh, you might want (inaudible)." You  
17 know, try to find this middle ground.

18 I mean, try to have information to start  
19 a conversation, get your input, and then we can  
20 have additional conversations after that to flesh  
21 it out more, see how that works.

22 That's kind of where we are now. I hope  
23 to actually have more information, you know.

1 (Inaudible) you know, level budgets, (inaudible)  
2 budgets.

3 So, I don't know how all that -- I'll  
4 try to find a way to get more information in the  
5 future (inaudible) because, hopefully, at some  
6 point, you know, we realize that, how that  
7 impression it gives (inaudible) our Budgets appear  
8 in the Federal Government, and in, in the -- Our  
9 Budgets appear in the Department (inaudible) the  
10 Tribe. So, we (inaudible) these are all part of the  
11 discussion we had.

12 If, if the Region, or, or just more  
13 Tribes want to, want to, you know, put a  
14 (inaudible) Region want to participate in a  
15 intertribe region, we'll have to work through how  
16 to make sure that, that the Tribe understands how  
17 hard (inaudible) budget as well (inaudible).

18 So, that's a future discussion. If you  
19 have -- I just have to get over this first  
20 question.

21 Really, it's, it's a tribal issue to,  
22 you know, you want to have the, the Bureau  
23 essentially has (inaudible) in your organization.

1 So, appreciate that.

2 And, then, (inaudible) I just won't  
3 (inaudible) first part on it. (Inaudible) just  
4 have to figure out (inaudible) how interactive  
5 (inaudible).

6 But, we'll just have to figure out how  
7 to interact with the resident partners.

8 A SPEAKER: Good morning, sir. I'm not  
9 going to take up too much time.

10 I had wanted (Inaudible.) My question  
11 is on each and every (inaudible) August fifteenth,  
12 one is more procedural.

13 I know that, that, that this is just the  
14 first round of consultation, and I've been here  
15 when Tribes, there's been a lot more competition in  
16 other areas, so (inaudible) in Alaska, and we've  
17 heard of (inaudible) as well. (Inaudible.) Drop  
18 dead?

19 THE MODERATOR: No. No.

20 And, really, we want to think about this  
21 as more for us in terms of, so we can, we can sort  
22 of, you know, after we thought about the  
23 competition, that we will collect and start

1 processing those internally, you know, for us.

2 And, (inaudible) available for us to, to  
3 have a, review the comments, you know, what  
4 responses we have that are in, and start that  
5 process instead of waiting until, like, the summer.

6 All right? So, (inaudible.) That's  
7 what happens (inaudible). And, I would think, you  
8 know, somebody's going to (inaudible.)

9 And, so, those are still taken into  
10 consideration. So, but, forwarding, yeah, we would  
11 have a, a new date, layout, figure out  
12 competitions.

13 MS. KINGMAN: Yeah, Gay Kingman,  
14 Executive Director of Great Plains Tribal Chairman  
10:58:00 15 Association; member of the Cheyenne River Sioux  
16 Tribe.

17 I wanted to, like to thank Mr. Medicine  
18 Bull for helping us with performing the prayer and  
19 saying the (inaudible). I'd also like to thank  
10:58:15 20 Secretary Zinke for coming out and meeting with  
21 (inaudible).

22 And, the thing that we always have to  
23 start with is if we hold our Treaties and recognize

1 our Indian sovereignty. This is our right to  
2 self-government, (inaudible), and actually our  
3 water, our people, and our government.

10:58:43 4 (Inaudible) Great Plains, all 16 Tribes  
5 are Treaty Tribes, and we stand on our Treaties.  
6 And, all, all 16 Tribes, now, (inaudible).

7 So, I not only look at 720 Tribes across  
8 the Nation. Many are small and many are, do not  
9 operate (inaudible) like ours do.

10:59:06 10 Ours have (inaudible), and so in a lot  
11 of ways we're different. It's not like (inaudible)  
12 but (inaudible).

13 And, we know that the Secretary drafted  
14 those because he said that without (inaudible) we  
10:59:32 15 must, must happen. When you look at our Tribes in  
16 the Great Plains in the Rocky Mountains, Genesey  
17 (phonetic), here, made sure when he spoke with  
18 Secretary Zinke, that there must be tribal input in  
19 whatever happens.

10:59:55 20 (Inaudible) very simple to our  
21 conversation with what happens. The tribal leaders  
22 must be constantly involved in what's going to  
23 happen because it's going to affect us on the

1 ground up here.

2 And, we did see what Secretary Zinke had  
3 to say as to (inaudible) that he, he (inaudible).

4 And, that's what he feels that the tribal, the  
11:00:28 5 Tribes are in that line.

6 And, we do want the voice and the power  
7 and the authority at the front lines on our tribal  
8 level. That said, though, we have (inaudible).

9 We have not taken official action  
11:00:48 10 collectively with 16, all 16 Tribes. In the  
11 initial meetings, they're not happy with the  
12 geographical maps.

13 There's two things we're looking at.  
14 One is the geographical map. And, then, what to do  
11:01:09 15 with the Bureau, the Bureau of Education and the  
16 Office of Tribal Justice, which are the two key  
17 bureaus that we deal with.

18 And, we don't want them involved  
19 (inaudible), but we will make oral comment. And  
11:01:33 20 Genessy also states that we don't want to  
21 (inaudible), but we will be giving you opposition  
22 plans, actually feedback, tribal feedback.

23 That would be for our future. I also

1 want to correct the Record from the Michigan  
2 hearing.

11:01:58 3 I'm just getting the question to you,  
4 Dr. Sheila, that: Is there any Tribe that is  
5 supporting this?

6 And, Chairman (inaudible) is supporting  
7 this. And, I move to correct that record because  
8 there was no such statement made, and that, that,  
9 that's not (inaudible) the statement made.

11:02:13 10 So, please correct the Record on that.  
11 That is not true. And --

12 A SPEAKER: I'm sorry, (inaudible). Did  
13 I say that?

14 I think what I was thinking is it seems  
11:02:26 15 likes he was receptive to having a discussion about  
16 that. So, if I did say he actually supported it,  
17 that, you're right.

18 That is inaccurate and I shouldn't have  
19 said that.

11:02:37 20 MS. KINGMAN: It is inaccurate.

21 A SPEAKER: All right. So, if I did say  
22 that, we can make sure --

23 MS. KINGMAN: Okay. (Inaudible.) So, I



1 I want the Record corrected on that.

2 A SPEAKER: I'm sorry, could you please  
3 let Jennifer know? Because, that was not my  
4 intention to, to --

11:03:03 5 MS. KINGMAN: You know why we wanted to  
6 get it on your record. All right.

7 Well, those are the initial comments,  
8 and we will be submitting official comments for the  
9 Record. Thank you.

11:03:12 10 A SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

11 And, thank you so much, Mr. Chairman,  
12 for the reading, as well. Maybe what -- I think I  
13 was intending to be honest on Tuesday.

14 I was a little fuzzy. I had about three  
11:03:27 15 and a-half hours' sleep that night trying to get  
16 there the night before.

17 But, I did appreciate that, that  
18 (inaudible) Frazier and the other leaders there,  
19 you know, at least that, you know, something to  
11:03:40 20 think about, right? And, instead of just saying,  
21 "Well, this is nothing we even want to think about  
22 or talk about."

23 So, it was codified. What I was trying

1 to get at, really, is it seemed like there was a  
2 reception to having a discussion about this.

3 A SPEAKER: (Inaudible) we want to,  
4 people to resolve your political (inaudible) and  
11:04:15 5 then (inaudible) with another. And, then the power  
6 of the earth, a separate ecostation in which the  
7 laws of nature and nature's favor entitles that.

8 The respect of mankind acquired the  
9 nation declared because they tell them the  
11:04:49 10 separation. We hold these truths to be  
11 self-evident, that all men are created equal, that  
12 they are endowed by their Creator with certain  
13 inalienable rights, and these are life, liberty,  
14 and the pursuit of happiness.

11:05:07 15 That to secure these rights, Governments  
16 are constituted among men, deriving their  
17 (inaudible) from the consent of the governed, and  
18 whatever they (inaudible).

19 But, these things, it is the right of  
11:05:30 20 the people to alter or abolish it, and to make a  
21 new government, laying its foundation on principle,  
22 and (inaudible) and to them shall be no (inaudible)  
23 to protect their safety and happiness.

1 (Inaudible) to dictate that,  
2 (inaudible), establish shall not be paid with life  
3 and (inaudible). And, according to the (inaudible)  
4 so that mankind, our Lord is supposed to suffer.

11:06:12

5 Our evils are sufferable, and the right  
6 (inaudible) by abolishing the things to which they  
7 are accustomed. But, when they go (inaudible) of  
8 our, our, our ownership.

11:12:25

9 That way we can have economic  
10 development. It can be a nation within the United  
11 States.

11:12:45

12 In a nation older than the United  
13 States, to begin with, only, you know, given up  
14 quite a few acres of land. Also, the people made  
15 the ultimate sacrifice to protect our way of life.

16 So, when you come out and tell us, you  
17 know, you're going to do this, you're going to do  
18 that, let's do it, how we going to do it when we  
19 first met. That way we can hold you responsible.

11:13:10

20 That's the same thing that happened to  
21 Custer, whereby he smoked the pipe with the  
22 Cheyenne Tribe. So, from that day forward, he  
23 smoked that pipe with them, and that Harold keeper

1 that smoked with them, put the ashes on the hill to  
2 the sign of peace.

3 If you ever raise another weapon, you  
4 can end up like that. That was on his own hill.

11:13:49 5 So, you will have to abide by his rules  
6 or by God he should abide by our rules. We're  
7 human made by the Creator, and that's how we do  
8 things.

9 We do things with the pipe, and that's  
11:14:18 10 their problem. But, I think that they need to get  
11 real here.

12 You have asked for consultation. Now, I  
13 can't hardly hear you or see you, but it's the same  
14 thing as your ancestors.

11:14:37 15 But, your ancestors, still everybody's  
16 hurt. And, some of you was, are long-winded, but  
17 we have to tell what we feel because this might be  
18 the only chance.

19 So, if we want to be overtaken, you'll  
11:14:59 20 have to think about what I said. You thought of to  
21 put an end on the ownership of our land, so we can  
22 decide what to do or tell these other Nations.

23 Highly regulated, but watched by

1 everybody. Almost everybody.

2 It almost, you know, those days are  
3 over. We're not your enemy.

4 All we're Native American. We have to  
11:15:43 5 go to war and protect the United States of America.

6 Where do you get that recognition? Back  
7 in the day they were sent to school in Carlisle,  
8 Pennsylvania.

9 They become farmers, businessmen, and  
11:16:02 10 have a successful life. And, then BIA got  
11 (inaudible) because they're making too much money.

12 Well, that was the intent. But, what is  
13 their intent now?

14 So, there's a lot of questions that need  
11:16:31 15 to be answered before there's any kind of more  
16 regulation. I think I have a Constitution here  
17 that will eliminate all this that we have to jump  
18 through.

19 So, we either move forward or we just  
11:17:02 20 going to continue to, you know, be under BIA rule?  
21 The traditionalists want to reorganize this.

22 That don't work. They realize that.

23 I think it took Trump to realize that.

1 So, maybe Trump would like to meet a Tribe  
2 face-to-face instead of sending somebody to change  
3 what we say back when he goes back to Washington.

11:17:40 4 That always happens. The Government  
5 always, they don't care what is said here.

6 And, I want to probably say how much on  
7 the other people. I want to say something.

8 I want to talk.

9 A SPEAKER: Thank you, sir.

11:18:01 10 So, it's 11:15, so you'll feel pressure  
11 to follow on and talk from our Elders here and have  
12 a few-minutes' break, take a bathroom break, coffee  
13 break, and be back in, like, ten minutes. You do  
14 that? Thank you.

11:18:21 15 (Whereupon, at 11:18 a.m. MT, those  
16 present took a brief recess and returned at 11:35  
17 a.m. MT, after which the following occurred:)

18 A SPEAKER: Okay, I'm ready to start  
19 again if you guys are. Are there still people out  
11:35:53 20 in the hallway, or -- ?

21 Okay. So, we're a little over halfway  
22 through our allotted time, and what I want to make  
23 sure is that every Tribe that's represented here

1 gets a chance to, to get their comments on the  
2 Record.

3 So, if we could make sure we have, like,  
4 every Chairman, or if you're the Designated  
11:36:35 5 Representative of your tribe, make sure that you  
6 get a chance to, to speak before we open it up to  
7 more broadly, I'd appreciate that.

8 MS. PITKA: Good morning. I am Rhonda  
9 Pitka, Chief of Beaver Village Council and Chair of  
11:36:51 10 the Athabaskan Tribal Governments.

11 The Athabaskan Tribal Governments is a  
12 consortium of ten Tribes of the Yukon Plateau,  
13 Alaska. Much of our traditional territory is now  
14 federal land.

11:37:05 15 We have, we have National Park Service  
16 land and a huge amount of territory in the National  
17 Wildlife Refuges, (inaudible) national wildlife  
18 refuges (inaudible) National Wildlife Refuge.

19 So, our interest in this is that we're,  
11:37:20 20 we're heavily impacted by federal land in Alaska.  
21 And, you know, we, we also would like to ask for  
22 more tribal consultations.

23 In Alaska, the only consultation that we

1 see is going to be in Juneau, and, unfortunately  
2 for me, (inaudible) we'll be getting married, so I  
3 can't make it to that one, so I did fly to  
4 Billings.

11:37:45

5 Juneau is, is far away for a lot of the  
6 Tribes in Alaska. Even having the consultation in  
7 Fairbanks would be better and more (inaudible)  
8 those Tribes.

11:38:00

9 And, actually, really concerned because  
10 you said something earlier that -- You said  
11 something that consultations are being held in  
12 places where the reorganization will happen. So,  
13 if, if Juneau is one of those place where the  
14 reorganization will happen, then I have a big  
15 problem with that just because of how difficult it  
16 is for our Tribes to get there.

11:38:14

17 We (inaudible) to take into  
18 consideration about mineral land in Alaska and the  
19 Native challenges faced by the people and the  
20 Tribes in Alaska. Again, I told you, you know, we  
21 need to stay well within Park Services, Refuge  
22 land, and those, those, those unique challenges  
23 faced by people living within, you know, Refuges or

11:38:33



1 Park Services definitely needs to be taken into  
2 account.

3 (Inaudible) changes that increase  
4 efficiency and streamline processes, but we're just  
11:39:02 5 concerned that, that we (inaudible) actually do  
6 that. We, we really need a lot more information  
7 about the pilot project in Alaska.

8 What you said was that you would be  
9 adding an office, so we're not exactly sure how  
11:39:20 10 that would streamline, you know, streamline  
11 processes or, or cut money if you're going to be  
12 adding something. And, I, I -- It's, it's kind of  
13 concerning to see how, how that would work within  
14 all the conditions that already exist in Alaska,  
11:39:36 15 like, you know, the Office of Assistant Management.

16 And, there's a lot of though things  
17 already because of the different, you know, the  
18 Bureau of Land Management in the State of Alaska,  
19 that office may be affected, but it's already done  
11:39:50 20 a lot of the things that are with this, so it's  
21 kind of confusing.

22 You know, the Council for Alaska Tribal  
23 Governments has several angles (inaudible) with

1 BIA, (inaudible) from requiring tribal agreements  
2 of coordination and planning with staff. So,  
3 these, these agreements need to be honored,  
4 whatever reorganization happens.

11:40:19

5 Beyond BIA Agreements, there's only a  
6 few in the Nation, and (inaudible) two of them. We  
7 have Agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
8 and an agreement with the BLM.

11:40:34

9 And, at least the BLM Agreement is, is  
10 in jeopardy right now. You know, they, they are.

11 You know, they, they are, they're  
12 discretionary Agreements with the Agencies. So,  
13 when an Agency has change, then sometimes their  
14 priorities shift and, and the Tribes lose out.

11:40:49

15 So, I think any, any type of  
16 reorganization must take those Agreements into  
17 consideration, and put into place things that  
18 protect those Agreements. There needs to be clear  
19 lines of authority among the non-BIA Agencies

11:41:12

20 involved with BIA.

21 The non-BIA Agencies need to have  
22 accountability, and so they meet their  
23 responsibilities to the Tribes. A lot of the

1 Agencies don't, don't really have very good  
2 consultation or coordination with the Tribes.

3 The coalition of our natural resources  
4 needs to be increased in Alaska. We do have  
11:41:40 5 several comanagement Agreements, and I'm, I'm  
6 actually concerned that some of those would go  
7 away, you know, under these types of reorganization  
8 plans.

9 So, I think that's mostly -- We just  
11:41:57 10 want to ensure that the BIA upholds the  
11 responsibility to our, to our Tribes, and we're not  
12 sure how that, how that would happen. But, that  
13 definitely needs to happen.

14 The non-BIA, the non-BIA Agencies and  
11:42:16 15 Bureaus, they, they definitely need to be more  
16 accountable to Tribes. I really appreciate you  
17 taking the time to, to come here and visit our  
18 (inaudible), but I've been at consultations  
19 recently, and at public meetings, where it's  
11:42:31 20 basically just a check-off, like the scoping,  
21 scoping commentary for the Arctic National Wildlife  
22 Refuge leasing, leasing plan.

23 Like, it just felt like, to a lot of the

1 people in the room, that the government Agencies in  
2 there were basically (inaudible), and not really  
3 listening to the people, and not really engaging  
4 with the public like they should have been.

11:42:51 5 Even, even as a Tribe working through  
6 that system, it took us eight years with the, the  
7 BLM Environmental Impact Statement for Interior. I  
8 mean, that's just, that's one plan.

9 So, -- And, the point that concerns me  
11:43:13 10 when you try to, you know, make, make this process  
11 a streamlined or something, because there's so many  
12 things to take into account. So, so, those  
13 processes alone are, are pretty concerning.

14 If, in fact, they will be more  
11:43:31 15 efficient, and they will be more streamlined, that  
16 will be useful to people in Alaska, especially.  
17 You know, we live off the land still.

18 We still have traditional fishing.  
19 (Inaudible.)

11:43:49 20 We, we're sort of the last fishing, the  
21 only wild fishing in the whole world right now.  
22 And, and even those resources are under attack  
23 constantly.

1 Right now we're facing, you know,  
2 (inaudible) in salmon and (inaudible) the Porcupine  
3 caribou herd. Those, those two things are  
4 resources that our, our people depend on quite  
11:44:10 5 heavily.

6 I've heard about economic development in  
7 a lot of different arenas, but we don't talk about  
8 our own economy very much, you know, the crash of  
9 our own economy; the crash of our subsistence  
11:44:26 10 economy; that, that the way that we get food, and  
11 our security is at risk right now.

12 And, I think that sometimes we need to  
13 really look at those effects and the effects that  
14 it will cost not only monetarily, but to culture  
11:44:41 15 and to the spirit of the land. So, I really  
16 appreciate you listening to me, and (inaudible),  
17 thank you.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

19 MR. (Illegible): All right. Thank you,  
11:44:56 20 Mr. Deputy Assistant Secretary.

21 And, once again, welcome. I have a  
22 brief statement here that I want to share with you.

23 And, my name is Len Tjuji (phonetic). I

1 am the, a member of the Tribal Council of the  
2 Salish Kootnai Tribe.

3 We're located in the center of western  
4 Montana on our 1.3-million-acre Reservation. And,  
11:45:22 5 so, once again, thank you.

6 Now, (inaudible) we have viewed the  
7 documents on the BIA web site concerning the  
8 Department reorganization efforts. We believe the  
9 overriding goal of any reorganization should be to  
11:45:42 10 improve the Trust responsibility and services  
11 provided to Indian Tribes.

12 To the greatest extent possible, we feel  
13 the makeup of Tribes in any region should be a  
14 Tribe that shares similar values and  
11:45:58 15 characteristics. Currently the (inaudible) in the  
16 BIA Northwest Region we have similar Treaties and  
17 Treaty language like other Tribes in the region.

18 In addition, many Tribes within  
19 Northwest Region are self-governance Tribes, and  
11:46:20 20 not Directorate Tribes. We would like the  
21 Department to take these things into consideration,  
22 as well as how to have knowledgeable staff and  
23 leadership at the regional level that are familiar

1 with the priorities of the Tribes that they work  
2 with.

3           Throughout the year we have built  
4 relationships with other Agencies within the  
11:46:46 5 Department such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land  
7 Management, and the National Park Service.

8           We are hopeful that any reorganization  
9 will not disrupt, but, instead, improve upon the  
11:47:01 10 years of relation, relationship-building and trust  
11 that the Tribes have with these Agencies. It would  
12 be very helpful if the reorganization improved the  
13 Department's capabilities to make it more efficient  
14 and providing services to the Tribes.

11:47:19 15           And, once again, I'd like to thank the  
16 Department and the representatives for the  
17 Department here today for giving me this  
18 opportunity to present our thoughts about the  
19 reorganization efforts and pertaining to Indian  
11:47:33 20 Affair research.

21           The Salish Kootnai Tribe respectfully  
22 requests the Department keep Tribes like us  
23 informed as the process moves forward. And, once

1 again, thank you.

2 And, for the purposes of moving this  
3 meeting forward, I'll provide a written response.

4 So, once again, thank you.

11:47:51 5 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Tutju  
6 (phonetic).

7 MS. SNYDER: I'm going to make a quick  
8 comment, although Kevin (Inaudible) has already  
9 spoken on behalf of the Eastern Shoshoni Tribe.

11:48:05 10 But, I would like for you to deliver a message to  
11 Secretary Zinke that he needs to come and visit the  
12 Tribe.

13 THE MODERATOR: Would you give your name  
14 for the Record?

11:48:17 15 MS. SNYDER: Oh, I'm sorry. It's Karen  
16 Snyder, and I'm an official for the Shoshoni Tribe.  
17 I would just really like (inaudible) to come and  
18 visit us.

19 On behalf of the Northern Arapaho Tribe,  
11:48:29 20 they are here, but I'd like him to come and visits  
21 us as one of the land-based Tribes. Just a broad  
22 statement.

23 I think the restructuring is, lacks



1 logic. It's just another administrative layer that  
2 we're going to go through, and, I mean, the  
3 (inaudible) primary factors are based on  
4 recreation, conservation, and permitting.

11:48:50

5 I would like to say it might make  
6 perfect sense to organize those other Agencies,  
7 Bureaus. But, don't put the BIA in the mix.

8 It's, like, how dare you.

11:49:02

9 (Whereupon, at 11:48 a.m. MT, the  
10 automated telecon operator interrupted the  
11 proceedings, after which the following occurred:)

11:49:30

12 MS. SNYDER: So, (inaudible). So,  
13 that's my broad comment, but we -- Again, I feel  
14 I'd very much appreciate if you would deliver that  
15 to Mr. Zinke that we would like to have a  
16 consultation. Thank you.

17 A SPEAKER: Yeah, the next tribal leader  
18 at this time. I'll speak later.

19 THE MODERATOR: All right.

11:49:44

20 (Inaudible.)

21 A SPEAKER: I'll, I'll (inaudible) as  
22 well.

23 A SPEAKER: You want me to say some

1 more?

2 A SPEAKER: I don't think you want to  
3 hear from me.

4 MR. BEAR RUNNER: Good morning again.  
11:50:05 5 I'm Ramon Bear Runner.

6 I'm Official Assistant to the Oglala  
7 Sioux Tribe President. I'm proud to be here.

8 I'm not really a tribal leader, but I've  
9 worked with the Sioux Tribe of South Dakota for 27  
11:50:19 10 years. And, the reason for this consultation  
11 meeting is that, as we said earlier, is preparing  
12 our Tribe (inaudible).

13 MR. CLIFF: Good morning. My name is  
14 Lynn Cliff, Junior, (inaudible) Representative,  
11:50:45 15 Fort Belknap Indian Community.

16 To me, this sounds just basically like  
17 dictatorship; that you guys are dictating to us.  
18 You know, I don't agree with it.

19 From my Council seat, I don't know what  
11:50:58 20 the rest my Council speaks, but one of the  
21 questions that I have is you talk about the written  
22 Plan hasn't been written yet. Who is going to be  
23 writing that Plan, and when is it going to be

1 written, is the question that I have.

2 Also, I wanted to talk about the  
3 scientific rationale, I guess you'd say, for these  
4 meetings. And, also, (inaudible).

11:51:26 5 Indeed, I only -- What I have got is,  
6 you know, we've got to protect the land. And, this  
7 is going to open up, make it easier for  
8 corporations to come in and don't have to  
9 (inaudible) and don't have to do this and that,  
11:51:46 10 because kind of feel bad for Alaska, too, what's  
11 going on up there.

12 You know, those are my concerns. I  
13 don't have a lot to say here.

14 There are other tribal leaders. I am  
11:52:01 15 here, but, you know, that's just one question that  
16 I have.

17 A SPEAKER: Couple minutes here, but  
18 good morning. First of all, thank you for coming  
19 out.

11:52:19 20 I'll try to be brief. I'd really like  
21 to listen.

22 It's -- There's a document, you know, I  
23 talked to you about, but just wanted to make it

1 clear for the Record that our Leaders' Council  
2 wasn't here, but we had a representative here on  
3 that yesterday afternoon. I think they just signed  
4 us off.

11:52:48

5 I just want to make it clear for the  
6 Record, John, that this document will have been  
7 submitted for the Record here today on behalf of  
8 the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council. The  
9 document, one of the things that I really want to

11:53:03

10 clarify in there is that you mentioned in your  
11 opening comment is that the discussion about it, as  
12 we move forward, and there's going to be a cost  
13 savings.

11:53:21

14 That, you know, that money, you know, we  
15 move forward, we stay within a new region, as we  
16 move forward with plans in the Region, that that  
17 cost savings to stay in that area, or, you know,  
18 get back down to the field.

11:53:35

19 So, I just wanted to find out if there's  
20 a cost savings, that it stays in that area. The  
21 other thing, too, I was looking at the Executive  
22 Order, again, as has been discussed here, just  
23 mentioning again, that the, you know, obviously,

1 you know, (inaudible) the initial Executive Order  
2 that the Tribes weren't clear on that they wanted  
3 along the same lines as State or Local Governments.

4 The other thing, also, is using my  
11:54:02 5 experience (inaudible) in the past, where's the  
6 State Representative from OMB that comes to these  
7 meetings? If that's something that you could talk  
8 to the Secretary about, and possibly talk to the  
9 President about, or talk to OMB about, I'd  
11:54:21 10 appreciate that.

11 But, quick question. I know -- I think  
12 Tiffany's been working on it, and this is for  
13 anybody in the room, you guys, one question before  
14 I finish. Has the President signed off on a, like,  
11:54:41 15 his version of what he wants (inaudible) this  
16 Executive Order 13175? Does anybody know that in  
17 the room? Phil? (Inaudible.)

18 A PARTICIPANT: Are you talking the  
19 consultation?

11:54:52 20 THE SPEAKER: Yeah.

21 A PARTICIPANT: He has not.

22 THE SPEAKER: Okay.

23 A PARTICIPANT: But, he has, has been

1 clear that it's still in full force and effect. We  
2 abide by it, so --

3 THE SPEAKER: Okay. Well, that's why we  
4 want the request on the Record here today, is that,  
11:55:09 5 you know, you talk to the, the Secretary and the  
6 Secretary talks (inaudible) the President  
7 (inaudible) that the Executive Order 13175  
8 (inaudible) we have a discussion here today about  
9 meaningful consultation and making (inaudible).

11:55:23 10 But, that, I mean, I, I like the, the  
11 idea of, of watersheds. I like the idea of that.

12 I definitely think that the BIA  
13 specifically needs to be the organizer, and  
14 regardless of who's in Congress and the  
11:55:47 15 Administration, Congress has been talking about  
16 that a long time.

17 But, we need to be cautious about that,  
18 also, and learn from the attempts that have been  
19 made in the (inaudible) past, and the consultations  
11:55:59 20 that is here today as far as getting caught up in  
21 the leadership path. So, -- And, I'm optimistic  
22 about the watershed.

23 One of the things that I'd like to say,

1 I guess, is looking at what's being proposed as far  
2 as the large land-based Tribes, is that if we don't  
3 follow through on this and continue to have  
4 consultation about it, that looking at the need and  
11:56:23 5 looking at the, you know, starting focus on pushing  
6 resource dollars, and that's going to be a  
7 priority, that you look at different factors, and  
8 especially in this area as far as large land-based  
9 Tribes are concerned.

11:56:40 10 And, the Region 6 being proposed is, is,  
11 it's going to be a big region if that's something  
12 that comes to fruition. You've got a lot of large  
13 land-based Tribes in there.

14 I want to advocate -- I know you talked  
11:56:59 15 about it a little, but (inaudible) presentation,  
16 (inaudible) I just want to make that clear, that I  
17 advocate for this office to stay open.

18 I (inaudible). There's good  
19 relationships here, and this is a real problem for  
11:57:13 20 our Tribes in this region.

21 So, I'd be advocating that this office  
22 stays open. We've talked about the three primary  
23 factors a little.

1                   That's all based on, you know, what are  
2 they? They're recreation and, and --

3                   A PARTICIPANT: Conservation.

11:57:45

4                   THE SPEAKER: -- conservation, and  
5 (inaudible). So, just, just trying to reclarify  
6 all the things that -- And don't get caught up in  
7 that also.

11:57:54

8                   (Inaudible) off of our Treaty. And, we,  
9 we have to be mindful of that, that we don't get  
10 caught up in that like we have been before in the  
11 past.

12                   But, (inaudible). But we'll always be  
13 mindful of that.

14                   And, you know, (inaudible) for all the  
15 Tribes. We're all different, so, I know you heard  
16 that today.

17                   And, another thing, too, is, is we heard  
18 a lot about reorganizing and (inaudible) another  
19 loophole in the consultation, which I know  
20 (inaudible). Another factor that, you know,  
21 (inaudible) should be placed on is economic  
22 development, because (inaudible) the Tribes.

23                   A third part of that reorganization



1 (inaudible) has some changes that could happen,  
2 (inaudible), and that's another part of it that we  
3 have to think about and (inaudible) you'll see.

4 But, we'll be submitting comments for  
11:59:06 5 the Record before the deadline, and we'll continue  
6 the discussion.

7 One of the things, real quick, I wanted  
8 to mention just on a side note, when I went out  
9 there in February, one of the things that the  
11:59:19 10 Secretary started talking about was to get a Trust  
11 consultation done. So, I'd like you to maybe  
12 consider that because, you know, at least try to  
13 schedule the Great Plains (inaudible).

14 So, it seems like, you know, I don't  
11:59:27 15 know what the schedule is, but plan that. It was  
16 skipped over.

17 So, if possible I'd like to see a Trust  
18 consultation here. Thank you.

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, President.

11:59:44 20 A SPEAKER: I (inaudible) our tribe in a  
21 appointed capacity, so at this time I yield to any  
22 elected officials. But, but, I'd like to make a  
23 comment when it's open to the Floor.

1 MR. SANGER: Good afternoon, John, and  
2 welcome back to Montana. I know we've met with  
3 Zinke, with the Secretary Zinke about a month and  
4 a-half ago, but, you know, it's, it's good to see  
12:00:22 5 these other Departments within DOI be reorganized.

6 This is a good effort to reorganize the  
7 BIA. And, consultation process on the last, the  
8 last try wasn't, didn't pan out.

9 So, any representatives from Interior,  
12:00:47 10 they met in a number of different cities, and I was  
11 invited to speak with these. And, that got eight  
12 points of consultation throughout the Country, but  
13 the intent of it was BIA did what they wanted to in  
14 the first place.

12:01:14 15 They never took the consultation that  
16 seriously. None of the changes were made that the  
17 tribal leaders had recommended.

18 And, I hope this may not be the case  
19 under this reorganization. Thank you.

12:01:31 20 THE MODERATOR: Would you state your  
21 name for the Record, please?

22 MR. SANGER: I'm Richard Sanger.

23 A SPEAKER: Hello. I'm (Inaudible),

1 Council member of the (Inaudible) Tribe. I have  
2 been involved in Tribal Council, you know, very  
3 much involved in Tribe's, my tribe for many years.

12:02:06 4 One of the things that, that my concern  
5 would be about this change is the area that we're  
6 in, the Rocky Mountain area and also that's where a  
7 lot of large land-based Tribes are. And, there are  
8 a lot of issues, you know, within, within those  
9 areas.

12:02:26 10 To make it one area, or one region, I  
11 guess, for so many Tribes there, we, the Regional  
12 Director would have to be spread real thin, I  
13 guess, you know, to deal with all the issues the  
14 Tribes have there.

12:02:49 15 And, I don't see how, I don't think any  
16 more efficient (inaudible) living in that area.  
17 And, then, certainly, you know, (inaudible) the  
18 large land-based Tribes in that area and that you  
19 have to look at.

12:03:10 20 So, you just look at, you know,  
21 increasing, you know, the workforce out there, or  
22 the services, or -- And, just to make it a lot  
23 easier, I guess, for the Bureau to handle those

1 issues.

2 So, I just look at it that way, and, you  
3 know, that, asking, you know, how it would be, you  
4 know, cutting (inaudible) or banking reserves is a  
12:03:38 5 lot better for the Tribes.

6 I wanted to -- I wanted to ask, also, is  
7 right here it talks about, you know, the issues  
8 like simplify the process and make it an  
9 environmental (inaudible) simplify the process and  
12:03:53 10 make the offices more efficient.

11 You know, now our Tribe's spent a long  
12 time waiting for a lot of this, and, you know, so  
13 that's, again, there and again (inaudible). So,  
14 we're just interested about that, and (inaudible).

12:04:20 15 Thank you.

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much.  
17 Are there other tribal leaders --

18 A SPEAKER: Yeah. Tribal leaders?

19 THE MODERATOR: -- who want to come up,  
12:04:29 20 or, or tribal representatives who you're  
21 representing a Tribe?

22 MR. FAST HORSE: Good morning,  
23 everybody. Steve Fast Horse, for the Record;

1 Northern Arapaho Tribe, (inaudible) Council member.

2 And, the Northern Arapaho Tribe mission,  
3 for right now, is to, again, be, we, we oppose the  
4 re-, reorganization brought to the Bureau of Indian  
12:05:09 5 Affairs. But, then, again, we're at the beginning  
6 of the process.

7 But, again, there's not a lot of  
8 information that we can get as far as how, how  
9 that's going to develop and be planned. And, so,  
12:05:18 10 again, until we actually get more information to,  
11 to see what that looks like, like, that, that is  
12 our mission.

13 I just want to echo Councilwoman Karen  
14 Snyder from the Eastern Shoshone Tribe comment  
12:05:37 15 which was that we would like to get a meeting with  
16 Zinke; have him come to the Wind River Reservation,  
17 because, again, we, we haven't been afforded the  
18 opportunity for that yet.

19 But, we would like to get face-to-face  
12:05:49 20 with him to, to look at this overall and be able to  
21 express our concerns moving forward. And, again,  
22 for the Northern Arapaho and the Eastern Shoshone  
23 Tribe, you know, we, we fit in a very unique

1 position here because we, we are two Tribes on one  
2 Reservation, which has always been a, a very big  
3 issue overall for, for the, for the two Tribes  
4 trying to get services from the BIA.

12:06:22

5 And, so, you know, we want to make sure  
6 that that is noted in, in, in our comments,  
7 because, again, we, we are a unique (inaudible)  
8 pertaining to a lot of the other sovereigns that  
9 are in this room.

12:06:42

10 And, so, you know, we want to make sure  
11 that there's opportunity for us to accept that.  
12 You know, again, that's, that's always been a  
13 historical fact and it's, again, a historical issue  
14 for both Tribes.

12:06:45

15 And, we want to make sure that before we  
16 are a part of this reorganization, that we actually  
17 are, are afforded a chance to correct some of those  
18 issues and find a, a better path forward as we  
19 move.

12:07:03

20 And, then, the second part would be,  
21 again we, we, we look at the, the overall strategy  
22 to implement such a, such a undertaking, because,  
23 again, as was mentioned earlier, we've met before

1 throughout the history, but, again, I think it's  
2 prehistoric, because, again, it's pretty important  
3 that it includes the whole Interior versus just the  
4 BIA.

12:07:30

5 And, so, so, again, that could possibly  
6 be a, a good thing, you know, because, again,  
7 National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, you know,  
8 there's, for some, for some people that have been  
9 missing as far as, as far as the Tribe, when it  
10 pertains to some of the lands that are, that are  
11 involved, that are under their care, you know.

12:07:45

12 And, again, ancestral ties to some of  
13 those areas makes it very significant to a lot of  
14 these Tribes within this room. And, I know there  
15 was some times there where we, we mentioned bears  
16 here.

12:08:00

17 Like, one of the issues here, the big  
18 issue right now, and, again, in our area, the  
19 Yellowstone National Park, the Shoshone National  
20 Forest, we're talking about, again, those are some  
21 of the, the area. But, again, the Tribes were not  
22 consulted or even considered when some of those  
23 things were put into place.

12:08:14

1                   And, again, I think that this could have  
2    been a (inaudible) to again (inaudible). So, we,  
3    we've had a very good understanding that, you know,  
4    those are (inaudible), you know, to, to afford the  
12:08:41 5    Tribe the, the first offer on a lot of the  
6    decisions there.

7                   And, again, we've had an overall good  
8    partnership with a lot of the, the Agencies as far  
9    as the BLM and, and Fish and Wildlife and, and, and  
12:08:55 10   so forth. And again, we, we, we feel that that's a  
11   good thing as far as being able to look at some of  
12   those things that could be updated that could  
13   possibly affect the Tribes and some of us in that.

14                  But, for the (inaudible) of the  
12:09:12 15   reorganization of the, of the region, that one is  
16   a, is a big question mark for us because if we're  
17   comparing these to, again, some of these were  
18   Alaska, to the watershed, the Indian Reservation  
19   watershed runs north.

12:09:28 20                  You know, it flows right into Montana.  
21   So, again, I don't know what types of data you were  
22   using on that end, but, again, we, we'd like to see  
23   how that, how that has played out.



1                   Again, most of us, like I said, we're  
2                   for that watershed. So, we just need an  
3                   opportunity to, to get a better consultation going,  
4                   and, again, get more information to help us better  
12:09:53 5                   understand what this process will look like going  
6                   forward.

7                   Thank you for your time.

8                   THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Council.

9                   MS. BOLLINGER : Okay. I love that new  
12:10:09 10                  Arapaho guy.

11                  Thank you. I'm Donna Thompson  
12                  Bollinger, Shoshone Bannock Tribe.

13                  I'd like to take a moment and thank all  
14                  the other Tribes for their comments. I believe we  
12:10:29 15                  all have the same concerns, but if, you know, you  
16                  continue to speak of, you know, each individual  
17                  Tribe, but in a Defense Budget Hearing that I have,  
18                  you know, sort of documented, if you stay at 1.6  
19                  billion proposed budget cuts from Interior, and to  
12:10:53 20                  remove 400 positions from the workforce.

21                  So, we find it hard to believe the  
22                  commitment to Tribes. And, as with our sister  
23                  tribe, the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, I also would

1 like to extend an invitation for President Trump to  
2 visit the Shoshone Bannock Tribe (inaudible) so  
3 that we can express our concerns and our issues  
4 with him.

12:11:17

5 But, for the Record, I want to identify  
6 that we also oppose the reorganization, and believe  
7 this will weaken the Federal Government's Treaty  
8 obligations to Indian Tribes and individuals,  
9 specifically the Shoshoni Bannock Tribe.

12:11:39

10 (Inaudible) we rely on 93-638  
11 contracting, and have received no assurances that  
12 these funding and contracts would not be impacted.  
13 The Proposal states that the ability for BIA  
14 Directors and Managers would be efficient and  
15 productive, saving federal dollars.

12:11:57

16 Unfortunately, this would be on the  
17 backs of Tribes and individual Indians who would  
18 have to constantly educate and reeducate high-level  
19 Directors in the different and unique aspects of  
20 Indian Tribes, as we are all different.

12:12:17

21 This proposal also elevates State and  
22 Local Government input to even higher, higher  
23 levels than before by including consideration of

1 their concerns to the proposal prior to tribal  
2 consortium, or, tribal consultation. This is  
3 unnecessary, and is inconsistent with federal  
4 Indian policy.

12:12:46

5 And, and, finally, the Federal  
6 Government, under the direction of Trump's  
7 Administration, should not experience, experiment  
8 with management of Indian Reservations, Indian  
9 Trust benefits, and with the judiciary

12:13:03

10 responsibilities that they have to Indians and  
11 Tribes.

12 And, so, with that I will, we will be  
13 submitting a written comment, but these are just  
14 some of the points that we would like to make at  
15 this time, presentation. So, thank you.

12:13:21

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Counselor.

17 Any other tribal representatives?

18 Tribal leaders?

19 (Whereupon, no response was had.)

12:13:31

20 THE MODERATOR: So, if not, I'll open it  
21 up to secondary comments. Is that right?

22 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you. I guess it's  
23 afternoon.

1           Good afternoon. I think that a lot of  
2 the comments that have, have been very, very big.  
3 I'm Majel Russell, and I am here, and I am General  
4 Counsel for Fort Peck, and I also represent  
12:14:14 5 Intertribal Buffalo Council.

6           So, I think I can safely say that I've  
7 represented every Tribe here in the Rocky Mountain  
8 Region in some manner or another. I guess, as you  
9 know, I sit in your shoes ten years ago in this  
12:14:28 10 same area, and did the very same thing that you're  
11 doing, which is to come and present a vague  
12 reorganization Plan.

13           And, that Plan followed all the Plans  
14 that Mr. Sanger talked about. None of those Plans  
12:14:43 15 ever started with an identification of what the  
16 problems are in Indian Country, and how we might  
17 fix them.

18           In this Region, and in the Great Plains  
19 Region we're dealing with Trust lands transactions  
12:14:57 20 every day. And, that still is the key  
21 responsibility of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in  
22 these two Regions.

23           That's to protect the land, the

1 resources, the water, all of the natural minerals.

2 And, that's a big job here.

3 That's why this is such a big building,  
4 with 470 employees here in the Great Plains. So,  
12:15:22 5 every time we talk about reorganization, we don't  
6 say, "What is wrong out there in Indian Country,  
7 and how do we fix it?"

8 Instead -- And, I've been part of those  
9 efforts. -- we have a Plan that someone thought up  
12:15:32 10 back in D.C., which, frankly, we have to admit has  
11 always been to save money.

12 And, then we take it out to Indian  
13 Country and we try to get support for that. So, I  
14 think, I think it's reality that we should, before  
12:15:45 15 we do any reorganization, look at:

16 What are those problems in Indian  
17 Country? And, if you ask today, "What are the  
18 problems of land management in Indian Country?" we  
19 don't have enough money to manage the land  
12:15:58 20 properly.

21 We're failing our Trust responsibility  
22 when it comes to lead compliance; when it comes to  
23 protecting natural resources. We just don't have

1 the kind of services that we should have.

2 So, I think that we need to start at the  
3 bottom up and look at what the problems are, and  
4 how do we improve them. So, looking at the Plan, I  
12:16:16 5 have some concerns about how it should be maybe to  
6 be increasing bureaucracy for BIA; maybe not for  
7 the other Agencies.

8 And, I understand, and I think -- I  
9 looked at the literature that you have about how  
12:16:30 10 the IRVs would basically be a problem-solver  
11 between agencies when agencies may have disputes in  
12 there. And, they have some examples.

13 And, I think that makes sense. And,  
14 and, we are dealing with some of those issue.

12:16:43 15 Right now the Fort Peck Tribe is  
16 involved with the Trans-Canada pipeline. And,  
17 we're involved with every Agency that has  
18 (inaudible) different (inaudible).

19 And, they have different authorities.

12:16:53 20 So, when you complain to one Agency, they tell you  
21 to run to another one; from ArctiCorp to DOR to  
22 BIA.

23 You know. So, so, there is some, there

1 is some logic maybe to looking at how we streamline  
2 those Agencies' commitments to Tribes.

3 But, on the other hand, for the Bureau,  
4 what I'm concerned about is all the Contracts that  
12:17:14 5 were entered into. Do we now have to go through  
6 another level of approval?

7 And, look how hard we fought to get  
8 Indian preference in this agency. You know, look  
9 how hard we fought to try to make sure that we have  
12:17:26 10 consultation on key positions in Indian Country.

11 Is that going to be maintained when we  
12 have a super-agency with IRD? And, are we going to  
13 have any chance at Indian preference?

14 You know, how will that position work  
12:17:40 15 with approval of contracts? Again, 638 Contract,  
16 is that another level?

17 So, I guess I could possibly go on and  
18 on, because I have seven pages of notes here.  
19 However, I won't do that.

12:17:53 20 I do think, though, that we need to  
21 identify what are the problems that need to be  
22 fixed before. And, and, I think we should have  
23 that feedback.

1 I think you should tell us exactly how  
2 this Plan would impact Indian Country, impact  
3 existing services, improve or change those  
4 services. I think that would be very helpful.

12:18:12 5 And, then, I did hear people talk about  
6 financial impact. I think we need something like a  
7 fiscal move.

8 We need to know, you know, what does  
9 that mean to, for the budget to Indian Country? Is  
12:18:24 10 it helpful?

11 Is it hurtful? We need to really  
12 understand where we're going with this.

13 I think that the August seventeenth date  
14 is coming up right around the corner, and you're  
12:18:35 15 expecting comment with very little detail. I think  
16 that this PowerPoint is pretty brief on detail in  
17 order for us to make knowledgeable comments.

18 And, the more information you provide,  
19 the better comments that, that we can make. So,  
12:18:49 20 that's it.

21 Thank you very much.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Majel.

23 Yes.



1                   A SPEAKER: Thank you. I've just got a  
2 brief comment.

3                   I'm Bill Snell, Executive Director,  
4 Rocky Mountain Trial Leaders. And, we know you  
12:19:14 5 have (inaudible) and have submitted some  
6 (inaudible) here for your consideration and, and  
7 review.

8                   One of the things I think that -- And, I  
9 don't want to repeat everybody in regards to what  
12:19:34 10 was said, but we went over a number of questions  
11 yesterday, 50 to 60 questions. You probably seen  
12 it, of all the questions that were asked and  
13 answered.

14                   The greatest answer to these questions  
12:19:50 15 was, "We don't know." And, so, I don't think  
16 that's adequate in regard to answering a question  
17 in regard to many of the things that are considered  
18 here today.

19                   And, I just want to tell you that we  
12:20:01 20 heard from history. And, historically, you know,  
21 the way that the Bureau has treated Tribes really  
22 created a bureaucracy and a failed system.

23                   Well, learning from that, I think we

1 need to move forward with a very comprehensive and  
2 strategic plan that you need to do in regard to  
3 possible reorganization or restructuring.

4 So, we've got reorganization issues that  
12:20:33 5 I don't know that will be wise. But, re-,  
6 restructuring the Bureau I think no one will argue  
7 that point.

8 So, strategically, from a strategic  
9 perspective, and, what you're presenting, we need  
12:20:49 10 to be able to respond to something that is  
11 comprehensive, that has been (inaudible) and  
12 analyzed so that we can move forward in a very  
13 formalized and effective and efficient way so that  
14 we can better our people in what we have to deal  
15 with what is done here today.

16 MR. STUART: I'm Douglas Stuart, Fort  
17 Belknap with my (inaudible) testimony (inaudible).  
18 I just have a couple brief comments, but out of  
19 respect for the many more-knowledgeable people in  
12:21:29 20 the room (inaudible).

21 You know, our history in the Fort  
22 Belknap (inaudible) began by leasing tracts of land  
23 from the Bureau (inaudible) the Bureau of Land

1 Management for another reason, Federal Government,  
2 all of those types of issues.

12:21:50 3 And, I'm respectful of the comments that  
4 they made regarding that, and the, the problems and  
5 challenges that have been associated with that, and  
6 especially, I guess I'm starting to (inaudible)  
7 today when I commented about it because it never  
8 really dawned on me until today.

12:22:08 9 I'm thinking, I'm listening, I knew all  
10 along the administrative part of the BIA has always  
11 been top down, but it doesn't really listen. I  
12 mean this in no disrespect, but you never really  
13 listen.

12:22:23 14 They're listening to a series of things  
15 dealing with operational efficiency. You're  
16 dealing with how to make it easier for Washington,  
17 D.C., to streamline decisions.

12:22:38 18 And, then, I wondered: How are we  
19 effectively economically making our Reser-, and  
20 enabling our organization become the financial  
21 powerhouse that we are truly independent?

22 And, then combined with (inaudible) I  
23 guess I've, I've, you know, if you were the CEO of

1 Indian Country and you get a corporate look at  
2 this, have you were ever going to buy the Bureau of  
3 Indian Affairs, we would look at all of the  
4 products.

12:22:59 5 We would look at the services. We would  
6 look at the multi-multi-million-dollar portfolio  
7 that's being managed. The Tribes here are wealthy;  
8 not cash-wise, but resource-wise.

9 And, it's (inaudible) a resource, I  
12:23:16 10 guess, but that's alright (inaudible). (Inaudible)  
11 but, if I would, if I were mining this, you'd be  
12 looking at, first of all:

13 How do you streamline it in such a way  
14 that you put all of that talent on these individual  
12:23:30 15 franchises, if you want to look at it that way, as  
16 a (inaudible)? And, how do these people create  
17 wealth, and, at a corporate level, streamline it  
18 such that they keep everybody out of the way and  
19 deregulate as much as possible?

12:23:45 20 And, people are going to make it on  
21 their own, or they're not. Now, there's a Trust  
22 responsibility, and we all understand it.

23 And, there's others in this room that

1 understand it much better than me. And, we all  
2 respect it.

3 But, within that concept I never used  
4 the word "paternalistic" in many years, but I'd  
12:24:03 5 respectfully suggest I just, that word kept coming  
6 to me today. So, I'm just possibly -- My  
7 background, my mother started with 120 acres up in  
8 Sheridan, Wyoming.

9 (Inaudible). Ended up with about 30,000  
12:24:17 10 acres, a real testament to the Indian women never  
11 giving up.

12 And, of course, all the subsequent  
13 things that go along with that that chopped it  
14 down. But, dealing with the Administrations and  
12:24:27 15 the Bureau's ups and downs and all that.

16 But, out of respect for what's going on.  
17 But, my thought would be: I think we're quite  
18 capable.

19 There's lots of people in the room like  
12:24:36 20 me who have many (inaudible) professionally  
21 (inaudible), by the way. We should be designing  
22 our own Plan.

23 We're the customer of this wonderful

1 bureaucratic organization. We're the customer.

2 We're, we're the ones being served.

3 And, in fact, you're serving at the request of the

4 Government through a Trust status.

12:24:58

5 But, we're the ones that know what needs

6 to be changed. I appreciate (inaudible) something,

7 but I, I'd be willing to challenge some of this.

8 There's nothing preventing that, from

9 taking our own MBA approach to this, based on our

12:25:12

10 historical experience, the elders in the room, and

11 saying:

12 This is what we can do, and not them

13 saying, "This is what we can do."

14 And, my closing thought is (inaudible)

12:25:20

15 as the CEO I would take the whole thing as lock,

16 stock, and barrel, and take it over (inaudible).

17 A PARTICIPANT: You said, "I suspect

18 that you would tell you that we should tell you to

19 take it over for us.

12:25:35

20 MR. STUART: Well, there's different

21 aspects, but you understand where I'm coming from.

22 But, I just say it very respectfully.

23 And, there's people in the room much

1 more knowledgeable than me, so they know.

2 THE MODERATOR: Is there anybody else?

3 When you're done, I'll offer some, a few  
4 comments. Maybe you'll have some response to that,  
12:26:12 5 too.

6 MR. FOX: Well, I just got a real quick  
7 comment.

8 THE MODERATOR: Can you, sir, give your  
9 name for the Record?

10:26:18 10 MR. FOX: Oh, Steve Fox,  
11 Secretary-Treasurer for Fort Belknap.

12 You know, the, the biggest complaint  
13 that the Tribes have about the BIA is their  
14 underfunded programs. And, you know, also, with  
12:26:36 15 this reorganization, you know, from the President,  
16 it almost seems like they kind of missed the mark  
17 here in a way that I think, you know, there's that  
18 Government-to-Government relationship that I think  
19 needs to happen that, but, also, you know, there's  
12:27:01 20 -- If, if you reorganize, you, you think the idea  
21 behind that would be to make things better.

22 But, I, I guess that's the big question  
23 to me is, you know, how are things going to get

1 better with this reorganization?

2 And, I think that each year's budget,  
3 starting next year, will be less with the Bureau of  
4 Indian Affairs. Isn't that correct?

12:27:31

5 A PARTICIPANT: I don't know. So,  
6 ultimately we can have our own ideas about our  
7 budget part of the (inaudible), but Congress is,  
8 like, the big daddy with the check.

12:27:41

9 They decide what those priorities have,  
10 should be, and how they're going to fund them, and  
11 then we have to spend our money the way they tell  
12 us to.

12:27:50

13 MR. FOX: Right. Because I, I was, I  
14 attended the south Governors' meeting in  
15 Albuquerque, so, when you spoke there.

12:28:10

16 But, to me, it, it just doesn't make  
17 very good sense if your, if your budget has a  
18 potential of being cut, and then, you know, are you  
19 used to the Regional offices to be a, a much longer  
20 commute?

21 You know, that kind of thing. I think  
22 those are all the things that need to be considered  
23 here, you know.



1           But, you know, how is it going to make,  
2           make it better after all this reorganization, is my  
3           question. So, you know, just leave that to you.

4           Thanks.

12:28:42

5           THE MODERATOR: So, making these remarks  
6           I think that I'll start off with what you just  
7           said. So, those are good observations.

12:29:00

8           I think that -- And, a couple other  
9           comments or questions were raised, too. I want to  
10          make sure to say it, or try to say this at the  
11          beginning.

12          I'll repeat. So, there's not any intent  
13          to change sort of the Bureaus on the ground, right?

12:29:18

14          And, really it's not the intent -- This  
15          departmental reorganization is not really focused  
16          on reorganizing BIA. It's reorganizing the  
17          Department Bureaus, how they interact with each  
18          other, and, you know, ultimately, for decisions  
19          that get made at that, at the Bureau.

12:29:33

20          So, there's, there's also the  
21          opportunity here. The Secretary has, has made  
22          clear that, in all the Bureaus, there may be some  
23          common-sense adjustments that need to be made.

1                   And, let me just say as an example, so,  
2 I know Wind River Tribes, you have a lot more in  
3 common with the Great Plains Tribes, than you do  
4 with the Tribes if you went farther down the  
12:29:58 5 Colorado Basin. That's just a factor of history  
6 and culture, right?

7                   So, it may be that we could figure out  
8 how to keep functionally your agency working with  
9 the, you know, with, with the Great Plains Tribes'  
12:30:16 10 agencies, with the Regional office there. And, so,  
11 there's, there's intended to be a lot of  
12 flexibility on the ground where the different  
13 Bureaus should be able to meet their needs on the  
14 ground.

12:30:29 15                   And, so, if that's what -- It works  
16 through all departments, so, the later discussion,  
17 if, if it, you decide that you'd like to be part of  
18 this unified region structure. Also, -- So, part  
19 of the negotiation to not be affecting resources on  
12:30:46 20 the ground is saying, you know, there's both  
21 conceptual and, and reality.

22                   Conceptually, you know, we don't want  
23 you to disrupt things that are working well. We

1 don't want to remove -- Obviously, we, you need our  
2 folks who are there at the Agency level and above  
3 there, to be available to you to perform the  
4 services that, that you, they have to provide.

12:31:08

5 We don't want to interrupt that.  
6 There's also the reality that, you know, we have,  
7 you know, physical infrastructure.

8 We have buildings. We have leased  
9 space.

12:31:18

10 These are not things that we can jump  
11 out of overnight. And, so, again, you know, sort  
12 of the, the secondary discussion I think will, will  
13 evolve in each of the Bureaus and our discussion  
14 with you would be:

12:31:31

15 Okay. So, if, if you want to  
16 participate in this unified region, you know, how  
17 could we, what would be, what would be your  
18 thoughts?

12:31:42

19 How could we continue to do our job well  
20 or better? How would that work.

21 You know, how would you see that  
22 working? And, we can state how we, how we can  
23 respond to that, how we can -- If it means moving

1 an office, sure.

2 But, if it means leaving an office where  
3 it is, you know, that's fine. It may be that we  
4 have functionally sort of, you know, still have,  
12:32:03 5 well, it could functionally be two Regional  
6 Offices.

7 We could still have an office here. We  
8 might have an office in Aberdeen.

9 Although, it sounded like the Chairmen,  
12:32:15 10 they would rather have an office in Rapid City than  
11 Aberdeen, I think. But, those are things that can  
12 be discussed as part of the, you know, the change  
13 after, after, afterwards when a decision's made on  
14 whether a tribal leader wants to participate or  
12:32:28 15 not.

16 So, I think that if the Plan would, you  
17 know, -- So, I guess a second step in the Plan  
18 would be to hear from you, discuss how we can  
19 accomplish that. You know, we have -- Obviously  
12:32:37 20 our first responsibility is to you, our Trust  
21 responsibility, Trust responsibility is to you.

22 But, we have a responsibility to our  
23 people, too, who work for us; the staff, or, you

1 know, people who have built lives who live in town.  
2 And, there's no intent to just uproot our employees  
3 who are working hard for us and for you without,  
4 you know, sort of thinking it through.

12:33:00

5 And, so, you know, that's part of --  
6 We've had several internal discussions with our  
7 employees about how this could or could not impact  
8 positively and negatively for them, and how we can  
9 work through that with them, so, which led me to a  
10 really big point.

12:33:14

11 I think that it's important for you to  
12 understand, and I want to impart that the is -- So,  
13 this is a big topic, you know, reorganizing across  
14 Bureaus and the Department. That means that at the  
15 end of the day it's going to take a while to  
16 implement.

12:33:29

17 Even just implementing the unified  
18 Regions, the Secretary's told us, look, we need to  
19 plan on about five years to get for this to be,  
20 like, implemented and actually operating, right?  
21 The, the full implementation, I suspect, will take  
22 longer than that.

12:33:44

23 So, what that means is, realistically,

1 is we have to have buy-in by all the stakeholders  
2 that will be involved and have a say in this.  
3 That's you guys as Governors -- Right?

12:34:04

4 It's Congress. They're the ones to be  
5 the ones who say it's okay for us to do this and  
6 spend money to do this, and spend money continually  
7 in our Bureau in a restructured way.

12:34:18

8 So, all these, all these different  
9 stakeholders in this have a say. And, they can all  
10 have an attack on it.

12:34:33

11 Huge stakeholder for us is obviously our  
12 employees as well. You know, if, if our employees  
13 aren't comfortable with this, then it's going to be  
14 a challenge for us to implement it as well, in  
15 turn.

12:34:41

16 So, (inaudible) is a reality. It's a  
17 fact, you know, that we have to bring into our  
18 discussion.

19 And, so, it's, you know, not that it's  
20 happening overnight. This Plan, you know, you  
21 know, the Executive Order has to be submitted in  
22 October; that's true.

23 So, that's really, like, the first

1 preliminary step is just respond to that. The  
2 actual, you know, filling it out, how it operates,  
3 comes later.

12:35:01 4 So, I, I want to impart that. I know, I  
5 know you're -- There's been -- I've heard from  
6 several folks.

7 We had listening sessions, and it was  
8 their concerns that that means that this was going  
9 to be implemented by October. Far from the truth.

12:35:13 10 This is going to be used ahead to do  
11 this. So, -- But, I do also want to make clear the  
12 kind of -- I know the question was raised about,  
13 well, why do Governors get to have a say before the  
14 other folks?

12:35:27 15 So, again, you know, there's the aspect  
16 of we felt we had to have enough information to  
17 come to you to even to start our discussion. And,  
18 two, was, frankly, the Secretary's committed to  
19 Indian Country; that we won't be -- If you don't  
12:35:42 20 want the Bureau to be part of this, we'll hold BIA  
21 back.

22 That doesn't apply to BLM. It doesn't  
23 apply to Fish and Wildlife.

1           So, the Governors, while they have  
2     input, they don't get a veto on it. It's  
3     happening.

12:35:57 4           (Inaudible) they're primarily concerned  
5     about. So, they've had their input early on.

6           They were really concerned about, you  
7     know, why we, how that would impact them. And, so,  
8     that's sort of just, you know, matter-of-fact  
9     reasons of why we didn't, we didn't want to go out  
12:36:11 10    until we had all the information to come to you.

11           But, why the Governors, as soon as they  
12    got rid of the first map, they were all, you know,  
13    lobbying in. Obviously they have a lot of impact  
14    with Congress as well; again, another stakeholder  
12:36:26 15    we have to deal with.

16           So, I hope that answers a part of your  
17    question. I think, too, I want to make sure that,  
18    that this is -- Well, we're discussing -- The  
19    departmental organization is, is at the top of the  
12:36:42 20    Bureau, basically -- Right? -- in getting this,  
21    facilitating this action.

22           This is not reorganizing the BIA. I'm  
23    very much on board with the notion that we need to



1 restructure a lot of things that we do in the BIA,  
2 and I think that that's, that's a different effort.

3 And, some of the things that we're doing  
4 now, and things we're considering, I think it would  
12:37:06 5 have been great for you guys to give me your plan,  
6 if you could re-, reorganize it and re-do it. I  
7 could tell you, you know, I'm, I'm still pretty  
8 early on coming on as a bureaucrat into the federal  
9 government, and, but, I've been in the Senate.

12:37:23 10 I've interacted with -- I've had  
11 clients, Tribes that interacted with BIA. And, so,  
12 when I came in I really had no idea how it ran.

13 I thought I did, but I didn't. So,  
14 there's a learning curve for me as well.

12:37:36 15 I'd love to hear from you guys. You  
16 interact with them on a daily basis, and I think  
17 there's certainly a good discussion that could be  
18 had with us internally about how we, you know, how  
19 we see we do things, how you see we do it, and how  
12:37:52 20 we, you know, find a way forward, the best way to  
21 do it.

22 I think that would be helpful. And, you  
23 know, there's fits and starts.

1                   There was a (inaudible) center which was  
2 supposed to be, you know, a multi-Bureau sort of  
3 Task Force to get energy decisions done quickly.  
4 And, you know, even Chairman Mark Fox, with  
12:38:10 5 (inaudible) came and said, "Well, you know, it's  
6 not really working like we thought it was going  
7 to."

8                   And, I'm trying to get a better  
9 understanding why it's not. So, I think that there  
12:38:21 10 are things that we can work on internally in the  
11 BIA, as well.

12                   So, -- And, that, that would be  
13 something I'd love to help you. Six-thirty-eight  
14 Contracts: So, 638 Contracts, and the process for  
12:38:35 15 that is set into law.

16                   So, that's not something we can change  
17 with a (sic) administrative reorganization. And,  
18 the funding for that is also protected by law.

19                   So, however the reorganization takes  
12:38:49 20 place, you know, that's something that we have to  
21 deal with. We have to figure out, make sure that  
22 we're not breaking the law; that we're still  
23 facilitating the courts, still facilitating the

1 self-governing Contracts and stuff.

2 And, so, does that raise any other  
3 questions while I'm trying to remember?

4 A SPEAKER: Thank you, John. What you  
12:39:34 5 just said, John, was (inaudible) President.

6 I was on the Council for three terms  
7 before, and now I'm back. But, what you said just  
8 a few moments ago, that's about the best things  
9 I've heard ever come from Department of Interior on  
12:39:49 10 the Record here today, John.

11 (Inaudible) start planning for that and  
12 we'll focus on that at Fort Belknap (inaudible) in  
13 a community that's in the spirit of, of negotiated  
14 (inaudible) and consultation. So, thank you for  
12:40:07 15 that.

16 THE MODERATOR: So, let's see if I can  
17 just -- I thought it was a really good point that  
18 Mr. Tudji (phonetic) made, and also Brooks and  
19 Choban (phonetic).

12:40:36 20 So, obviously there, there are cultural  
21 and, cultural and historical and even spiritual  
22 similarities between Tribes, and there's a lot of  
23 differences. And, one of the things that we hope

1 is not negatively impacted by this would be to have  
2 the flexibility in the regions so that they can  
3 continue to respond to the unique needs of those t  
4 in those regions.

12:41:07 5 I think that's critically important for  
6 us. I really, I really believe -- I liked the  
7 first time I heard it.

8 And, the Secretary, again, comes from a  
9 military background, okay? So, his description,  
12:41:20 10 you know, his vision of how, how, how you  
11 accomplish things on the ground is to have clear  
12 direction to the folks who are on the front line.

13 You give the authority to make decisions  
14 based on that direction, and the resources to  
12:41:34 15 implement them, and then you let them run with it.  
16 And, that's something in his mind, and I really  
17 believe it.

18 That's effective leadership. That's not  
19 how we, we're structured.

12:41:45 20 I mean, it's a really good point about  
21 how we (inaudible). I mean, we have a lot of  
22 decision-making at the top, and we, over time we  
23 pull it out of, out of the region; we pull it out

1 of the agency level.

2 So, I think that -- And, this is partly,  
3 or, a good part of this, I think, is us internally,  
4 really, for us. That -- Some of the other Bureaus  
12:42:07 5 (inaudible) may do a little better job of this.

6 I think all the Bureaus have a similar,  
7 you know, problem. There's too much  
8 decision-making that's required to be made at the  
9 top.

12:42:17 10 But, if we can provide more resources on  
11 the ground, but if we can also provide the  
12 direction and the authority to make decisions  
13 further down the chain, that should facilitate, you  
14 know, faster decisions for you; should facilitate  
12:42:33 15 your ability to input into those decisions, as  
16 well.

17 So, I just, I think that, to be very  
18 honest with you, I think one of my observations,  
19 being in the field, again, sort of a short time  
12:42:44 20 here, is that the result of a lot of flexibility,  
21 probably in a negative paternalistic way years ago  
22 in different regions of the BIA has led to, one,  
23 fuller decisions further up to get more

1 consistency, and, two, having too much variegation  
2 in decisions that are made in the regions.

3 And, I would, my observation, again,  
4 would be that those variegations are not helpful  
12:43:20 5 flexibility. They're actually unhelpful.

6 And, a lot of them come from, you know,  
7 the decisions that were made on how to handle an  
8 issue in a region 30 years ago maybe, right? So, I  
9 think that -- And, again, I relate this back to, to  
12:43:33 10 getting input from, from you, the tribal  
11 leadership. -- is: How can we change that?

12 So, how can we have clearer direction to  
13 our regional agency folks, but that it be  
14 consistent with, so the policies that we have, and  
12:43:48 15 implemented by them so they can have the decision  
16 and implement that on the ground so that we have  
17 the flexibility that you need and your interactions  
18 with them, but we're not running the risk of, you  
19 know, legal liability, the risk of litigation, or  
12:44:06 20 just going down the road that leads to bad, a bad  
21 policy.

22 We even have some of these that has  
23 ethical implications for our employees. We're,

1 we're taking a look at that to make sure that we're  
2 being as open and, and hon-, up front with, you  
3 know, through our engagement with you to, to our  
4 employees, as well.

12:44:28

5 So, I think that -- But, that would be,  
6 in our mind, you know, largely our responsibility.  
7 But, that certainly is direction from the Secretary  
8 down, to, is for us to look at how we do our  
9 business on the ground, and try to push authority,  
10 push decisions down to the how it's going to be  
11 made there.

12:44:42

12 I've talked on myself, unless you guys  
13 have something else. Anybody else?

12:45:00

14 A SPEAKER: (Inaudible) it's not  
15 critical. That's something that, give the people  
16 in this room a chance.

12:45:16

17 You guys can look -- It makes you look  
18 like geniuses in D.C., if we really can have true  
19 consultation, and, and actually put the, you know,  
20 the true ideas together based on how we would do  
21 it.

22 And, (inaudible). And, I don't speak  
23 for everyone in the room, but I was very glad what

1 you said.

2 I think that's a pretty interesting  
3 thing on the Record, is that you're really willing  
4 to do that. That was not a original thought.

12:45:30 5 You know, there's been some talk in the  
6 room, but I still wanted to get it out because I, I  
7 believe this is something that you can tell my  
8 friend, Ryan Zinke, we can make him shine pretty  
9 bright when he runs for President.

12:45:43 10 (Inaudible.) Thank you.

11 A SPEAKER: I want to thank you all. I  
12 think we were worried here in the beginning.

13 A little shaky here, but as we got going  
14 through it your responses were well-taken. They  
12:46:08 15 were clear and forthright.

16 I think your responses from consultation  
17 in this region in years combined, actually,  
18 feedback. So, we can say meaningful.

19 And, we'll, we'll wait and see if it's  
12:46:27 20 honest. But, I really appreciate your ability to  
21 engage with each of s tribal leaders here.

22 I think that that's really setting a  
23 good foundation for how you move forward with it.



1 So, I want to thank you for that.

2 So, that would be the last comment from  
3 a couple leaders. Brad, I'm sure you've got  
4 something more to say.

12:46:56 5 All right, I'll see you in D.C.

6 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Well, thank you  
7 very much. And, we'll close out this consultation  
8 session.

9 Look forward to seeing some of you  
10 either other places or when we do a second round.

11 I have -- I know that Secretary committed to  
12 Chairman Frazier that we'll do one of these in  
13 Rapid City, so we'll definitely be one there.

14 And, we're will looking at a second  
15 round up, like, in Portland up in the Northwest.

16 Thank you, guys.

17 And, again, it's quite an honor to be  
18 here and visit with you. And, thank you.

19 (Whereupon, at 12:47 p.m. MT, the above  
20 matter was concluded.)

21 I certify the foregoing to be a

22

23

1 true transcript from my notes.

2 E-signature: D. I. Bunn

3 CSR CP RPR

4 CERTIFICATION

5 I, D. I. Bunn, a Registered  
6 Professional Reporter, Certified Conference  
7 Reporter, and Notary Public, do hereby certify that  
8 the foregoing testimony was duly taken and reduced  
9 to writing before me at the place and time therein  
10 mentioned. I further certify that I am neither  
11 related to any of the parties by blood or marriage,  
12 nor do I have any interest in the outcome of the  
13 above matter.

14 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set  
15 my hand and affixed my official seal, at Chadron,  
16 Nebraska, USA, this 27th day of July, 2018.

17 E-signature: D. I. Bunn

18 Notary Public

19  
20 My Commission expires January 5, 2020.

21

22

23