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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Welcomes Secretary Ryan Zinke to Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. – One day after a bipartisan Senate vote confirming his selection, employees of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) joined with Interior employees in welcoming new Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to the Main Interior Building early Thursday morning. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, combat commander, and member of Congress from Montana, often speaks passionately about his love of life outdoors and the importance of preserving American lands.

 "We are happy to welcome Secretary Zinke to the Interior family," said OSMRE Acting Director Glenda Owens. "We at OSMRE stand ready to help our Secretary balance the nation's need for continued domestic coal production with protection of the environment."

Part of Zinke's portfolio as Secretary includes OSMRE and the implementation of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, or SMCRA. SMCRA established OSMRE and provides for regulation of active coal mining in the United States, reclamation of those mine sites after mining is completed, and reclamation of mine sites abandoned prior to 1977, when the Act took effect.

For more information about Secretary Zinke, read the Department of the Interior media release.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSMRE's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

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