

[Sam Hamilton](#), a career federal biologist, to head the Fish and Wildlife Service.

[Bob Abbey](#), a longtime Bureau of Land Management official before becoming a private consultant, as director of BLM.

Both of them seem to be accomplished professionals.

**However**, [E&E News](#) reported (subscription req'd), GOP Senators seem to be sitting on many Obama nominations for no announced reason, perhaps as retaliation for the decision to schedule the Sotomayor hearings earlier than they would have liked. One of those affected is Hilary Tompkins, who has been nominated as Solicitor for DOI. So who knows how long it may take for Abbey and Hamilton to be confirmed.