

To: cdr06@ios.doi.gov[cdr06@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: (b)(6) Ryan Zinke personal email @yahoo.com]
From: Boulton, Caroline
Sent: 2017-06-11T12:38:19-04:00
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[MET BY MOONLIGHT.PDF](#)
[Trip6.13-6.17CTNHMEMA \(3\).pdf](#)
[DailySummaryElectronic.pdf](#)

June 12

9:00-10:00 Senior Staff Meeting

Location: Office

10:40-10:50 Drive to White House

11:00-12:30 Cabinet Meeting

Location: White House

12:30-1:30 Lunch with Secretary Ross

Location: White House Mess

Topic: Reorganization

1:30-1:40 Drive to DOI

2:30-3:15 Media Call on Bears Ears

Location: Conference Room 6151

Participants: Heather Swift, Comms Team

3:30-4:00 Colorado River Basin Briefing

Location: Office

Participants: Alan Mikkelsen

4:00-4:30 Call on Colorado River Basin

Location: Conference Room 6151

Participants: Representatives from Colorado River Basin

Staff: Alan Mikkelsen, Scott Cameron, Tim Williams

4:30-5:00 Update from Deputy Secretary

Location: Office

Participants: Jim Cason, Downey Magallanes

7:00-7:15 Drive to Shakespeare Theater Company

7:30-7:40 Introduction to Will on the Hill

7:40-7:45 Will on the Hill Performance

7:45-8:05 Drive to DOI

8:05 Dinner with Members of Congress

Location: Office

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Caroline Boulton

Department of the Interior

Scheduling & Advance

[Caroline Boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov) | Scheduling@ios.doi.gov

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

Briefing Daily Summary -, 2017

FROM: Christine Bauserman, 202-706-9330

OVERVIEW:

Today you have one briefing and talking points:

03:30 - 04:00 pm Colorado River Basin Brief
(Talking Points are at the end.)

04:00 - 04:30 pm Colorado River Basin Call

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This is an initial meeting with the Governors' Representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin States. It is an opportunity to hear Basin States' priorities for ongoing cooperation with DOI and priorities to address the ongoing historic drought on the Colorado River.

II. BACKGROUND

The Secretary of the Interior, either directly, or through the Bureau of Reclamation plays the crucial role in terms of the management of the Colorado River - particularly in the lower basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada (Hoover Dam operations), where the Secretary serves as the Water Master for lower Colorado River decisions and operations. There is a unique working relationship between Interior/Reclamation and the seven Colorado River Basin States – a partnership different from other western interstate river systems.

- **All seven states will be looking for the Secretary to acknowledge the importance of close federal/state coordination on Colorado River operations, particularly given the ongoing period of historic drought that dates to 1999.**
- **While this winter has been a good one with snowpack currently at approximately 115% of normal, this one good winter does not mean the drought is over and the states are hoping and expecting Interior to press the states to finalize their drought contingency plans over the next 9-12 months.**

III. DISCUSSION

(Bolded bullets are key messages also reflected in the talking points)

The States are likely to prioritize finalizing a water shortage sharing agreement with Mexico – referred to as “Minute 32x” to the 1944 Treaty, and are hoping that this critical agreement can be signed as early as September of 2017. This agreement will ensure that Mexico will take reductions of Colorado River deliveries at the same time as users in the U.S., along with other water sharing and environmental cooperation.

- **The states will be looking for the Secretary to indicate his support for their efforts to finalize agreements with Mexico, and are hoping that these agreements can be finalized well before the end of 2017, when the current water sharing agreement**

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

Briefing Daily Summary -, 2017

(“Minute 319”) expires.

The States are also likely to press for continued Interior and Reclamation support to facilitate ongoing drought response discussions among the seven Basin States, recognizing that a number of issues – particularly internal discussions in Arizona and California – will likely mean that negotiations and finalization of drought response agreements in the U.S. will extend into early 2018.

- **The states will be looking for the Secretary to press, then to complete these efforts as soon as possible, and for Interior to identify these efforts as a top water management priority for the Department.**

IV. NEXT STEPS

Interior respects the role of each of the States and commits to continue the close and unique working relationship between DOI and the seven States in the Colorado River Basin.

V. PARTICIPANTS

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke
Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Kerry Rae, Chief of Staff for Water and Science
Alan Mikkelsen, Acting Commissioner of Reclamation
David Palumbo, Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation
Solicitor's Office – K. Jack Haugrud, Acting Solicitor; Keith Saxe, Associate Solicitor; Bob Snow, Attorney-Advisor
Brent Rhees, Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Director
Terry Fulp, Reclamation's Lower Colorado Regional Director

Basin States Principals

Thomas Buschatzke, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman, Colorado River Board of California
James Eklund, (former) Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board
John Entsminger, General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Jayne Harkins, Executive Director, Colorado River Commission of Nevada
Tom Blaine, State Engineer, State of New Mexico
Eric Millis, Director, Utah Division of Water Resources, Utah Interstate Stream Commissioner
Patrick Tyrell, State Engineer, State of Wyoming
Don Ostler, Executive Director, Upper Colorado River Commission

VI. ATTACHMENTS

T.P. provided on this electronic copy. The rest of the attachments are in the Briefing Book.

- 1) Call agenda
- 2) Agenda annotated with **talking points**
- 3) Participant bios
- 4) Incoming March 8, 2017 letter from Basin States Representatives

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

Briefing Daily Summary -, 2017

ATTACHMENT 2: ANNOTATED AGENDA:

I. Introductions (3 mins)

- Department of the Interior Participants
- Basin States Representatives

II. Welcoming Remarks by Secretary Zinke (5 mins)

- Appreciate the opportunity to meet the Governors' representatives – Aware that there is a unique history of DOI/Basin States collaboration on the Colorado River and I'm committed to preserve the excellent partnership that Interior and Reclamation have developed with the Basin States.
- Understand the critical role of Interior throughout the Basin – 3 points:
 - o Recognize the primacy of the States in the Upper Basin – Throughout the Reclamation states, we recognize the primary role state water law plays in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Nevertheless, given the massive federal water storage projects in each of the Upper Basin States, Interior and the States have to work together to identify and implement coordinated operations, particularly in times of drought.
 - o Recognize the unique role of the Secretary in the Lower Basin – I've been fully briefed on my responsibility as "Water Master" in the Lower Basin – and we intend to work closely with the Lower Basin states to finalize and implement strategies on drought response actions.
 - o Also recognize the importance of ensuring that water deliveries to Mexico remain in proportion with U.S. deliveries – We hear your concerns that if the U.S. is taking reductions on the Colorado River, Mexico must share the burden of shortages as well. We'll continue to work with and support all of you, the International Boundary and Water Commission, and Mexico on this important set of operations and decisions, including Minute 32x.
- In summary, we respect the role of each of the States and commit to continue the close and unique working relationship between DOI and the seven States in the Colorado River Basin.

III. Each Basin State Representative Summarizes key issues and priorities (14 mins)

IV. Interior Department – response, feedback, and next steps (8 mins)

V. Adjourn

**United States Department of the Interior
Official Travel Schedule of the Secretary**

**Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Boston
June 13 - June 16, 2017**

Draft: 6/7/2017



TRIP SUMMARY
THE TRIP OF THE SECRETARY TO
Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Boston
June 13 - June 16, 2017

Weather:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Uncasville, CT | High 87°, Low 69°, Sunny |
| Hooksett, NH | High 91°, Low 67°, Mostly Sunny |
| Katahdin National Monument | |
| Boston, MA | |

Time Zone:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| New England | Eastern Daylight Time |
|-------------|-----------------------|

Advance (Connecticut):

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Security Advance | Lt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) | (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) |
| Advance | Rusty Roddy | 202 897 8001 |

Cell Phone:**Advance (New Hampshire):**

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Security Advance | Sgt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) | (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) |
| Advance | Rusty Roddy | 202 897 8001 |

Cell Phone:**Advance (Katahdin National Monument):**

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Security Advance | Sgt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) | (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) |
| Advance | Caroline Boulton | 202 706 9300 |

Cell Phone:**Advance (Freeport, ME)**

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Security Advance | Sgt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) | (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) |
| Advance | Caroline Boulton | 202 706 9300 |

Cell Phone:**Advance (Boston, MA):**

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Security Advance | Sgt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) | (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) |
| Advance | Rusty Roddy | 202 897 8001 |

Cell Phone:**Traveling Staff:**

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Agent in Charge | Sgt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) | (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) |
| Acting Deputy Secretary | Jim Cason | 202 706 9033 |
| Deputy Chief of Staff | Downey Magallanes | 202 706 9199 |
| Communications Director | Laura Rigas | 202 897 7022 |
| Press Secretary | Heather Swift | 202 897 7111 |
| Deputy Director of External Affairs | Tim Williams | 202 706 4982 |
| Photographer | Tami Heilemann | 202 437 8486 |
| Personal Aide | Aaron Thiele | 202 897 7178 |

Cell Phone:**Attire:**

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Washington, DC → Mohegan Sun, CT → Hooksett, NH → Bangor, ME

5:45-6:15am EDT: Depart Private Residence en route Airport

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle:

Drive time: ~30 minutes

7:05am EDT-**8:22am EDT:****Wheels up Washington, DC (DCA) en route Hartford, CT (Bradley)**

Flight: JetBlue 798

Flight time: 1 hour, 17 minutes

RZ Seat: 9D

AiC: Sgt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Staff: Jim Cason

Aaron Thiele

Tami Heilemann

8:22-8:35am EDT:**Wheels down Hartford, CT // Proceed to Vehicles**Location: Schoephoester Road
Windsor Locks, CT 06096**8:35-9:35am EDT:****Depart Hartford, CT en route Mohegan Sun, CT**Location: 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard
Uncasville, CT 06382

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle: RZ

Lt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sgt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Jim Cason

Staff Vehicle: Aaron Thiele (Driver)

Tami Heilemann

Drive time: ~1 hour, 2 minutes

10:00-10:30am EDT:**National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference Remarks**

Location:

Participants:

Press: Open

Staff: Jim Cason

Laura Rigas

Aaron Thiele

Advance: Rusty Roddy

Format: 20 minute remarks, 10 minutes Q&A

Plenary session of tribal leaders; podium in center of the stage with
board members on both sides; tribal delegates will be sitting in the
tables in the front of the room**10:45-1:00pm EDT:****Depart Mohegan Sun en route Hooksett, NH**

Location:

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle: RZ

Staff Vehicle: Rusty Roddy

Laura Rigas

Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele
Tami Heilemann
Drive time: ~2 hours, 15 minutes

1:00-2:30pm EDT:**Lunch****2:30-3:15pm EDT:****Pittman-Robertson Grants Roundtable**

Location: Bass Pro Shop
2 Commerce Drive
Hooksett, NH 03106
Participants: Sarah Holmes, State Director, Senator Shaheen
Press: Closed
Staff: Downey Magallanes
Tim Williams
Laura Rigas
Aaron Thiele
Tami Heilemann
Advance: Rusty Roddy

3:15-3:30pm EDT:**Meeting with Governor Chris Sununu**

Location: Bass Pro Shop
Participants: RZ
Governor Chris Sununu (R NH)
Jayne Millerick, Chief of Staff
Press: Closed
Staff: Downey Magallanes
Tim Williams
Tami Heilemann
Advance: Rusty Roddy

3:30-4:00pm EDT:**Pittman-Robertson Grant Announcement & Media Availability**

Location: Bass Pro Shop
Participants: Sarah Holmes, State Director, Senator Shaheen
Press: Open
Staff: Downey Magallanes
Tim Williams
Laura Rigas
Aaron Thiele
Tami Heilemann
Advance: Rusty Roddy
Format: Stage; outdoors themed (flying ducks)
Podium will need DOI seal

4:00-6:45pm EDT:**Depart Hooksett, NH en route Augusta, ME**

Location: 192 State Street
Augusta, ME 04330
Vehicle Manifest:
Secretary's Vehicle: RZ
Staff Vehicle: Laura Rigas
Aaron Thiele (Driver)
Downey Magallanes
Tami Heilemann
Drive time: ~2 hours, 30 minutes

7:00-8:30pm EDT:**Dinner with Governor LePage**

Location: The Blaine House
 192 State Street
 Augusta, ME 04330

Participants:

Staff: Scott Hommel
 Downey Magallanes
 Laura Rigas
 Heather Swift
 Aaron Thiele
 Tami Heilemann

Advance: Caroline Boulton

8:30-9:45pm EDT:**Depart Augusta, ME en route Bangor, ME**

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Bangor
 250 Haskell Road
 Bangor, ME 04401

Vehicle Manifest:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Secretary's Vehicle: | RZ |
| Staff Vehicle: | Caroline Boulton (Driver) |
| | Scott Hommel |
| | Downey Magallanes |
| | Laura Rigas |
| Staff Vehicle 2: | Heather Swift |
| | Aaron Thiele (Driver) |
| | Tami Heilemann |

Drive time: ~1 hour, 15 minutes

9:45pm EDT:**RON****Wednesday, June 14, 2017**

Bangor, ME → Katahdin National Monument

8:00-9:30am EDT:**Depart Bangor, ME en route Medway, ME**

Location: Park & Ride by Medway Irving Big Stop
 1941 Medway Road
 Medway, ME 04460

Vehicle Manifest:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Secretary's Vehicle: | RZ |
| Staff Vehicle: | Caroline Boulton (Driver) |
| | Scott Hommel |
| | Downey Magallanes |
| | Laura Rigas |
| Staff Vehicle 2: | Heather Swift |
| | Aaron Thiele (Driver) |
| | Tami Heilemann |

Drive time: ~1 hour

9:30-9:45am EDT:**Arrive Medway // Proceed to Vehicles**

Location: Park & Ride
 Greeted By: Tim Hudson, Superintendent, Katahdin Wood and Waters National Monument

Lucas St. Clair, Elliotsville Plantation, Inc.
Note: Press will join at this point

9:45-11:30am EDT: Depart Medway, ME en route Katahdin National Monument
Location: Enter via Swift Brook Road
Vehicle Manifest:
Secretary's Vehicle: RZ
Tim Hudson
Lucas St. Clair
Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton
Scott Hommel
Downey Magallanes
Laura Rigas
Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele
Tami Heilemann
Press Van: Heather Swift
Drive time: ~1 hour

11:30-12:00pm EDT: Driving Tour of Monument
Location: Katahdin Loop Road
Vehicle Manifest:
Secretary's Vehicle:
Staff Vehicle:
Press Vehicle:

12:00-12:20pm EDT: Lunch
Location: Scenic Viewpoint at Milepost 6
Katahdin Loop Road

12:20-12:45pm EDT: Press Availability
Location: Scenic Viewpoint at Milepost 6
Katahdin Loop Road
Format: Backdrop is Mount Katahdin, Appalachian Trail, and various lakes

12:45-3:00pm EDT: Continue Driving Tour of Monument
Location: Katahdin Loop Road
Note: Will stop at Orin Falls on the Wassataquoik Stream (1 hour round trip hike)
Vehicle Manifest:
Secretary's Vehicle:
Staff Vehicle:

3:00-4:00pm EDT: Finish Loop Road & Drive to Lunksoos
Location: Lunksoos Camp
Vehicle Manifest:
Secretary's Vehicle:
Staff Vehicle:

4:00-5:30pm EDT: Canoe Trip
Location: East Branch of Penobscot River
Note: Can accommodate 10 inexperienced canoers
Note: Press depart

5:30-7:30pm EDT: Set up at Lunksoos Camp // Dinner

Location: Lunksoos Camps

8:00pm EDT:

RON at Cabins at Lunksoos Camps

Note: Sleeping bags will be provided

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Katahdin National Monument → Boston, MA

7:30-8:30am EDT:

Depart Katahdin National Monument en route Millinocket, ME

Location: River Driver's Restaurant & Pub
10 Chanterelle Lane
Millinocket, ME 04462

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle:

Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton
Scott Hommel
Downey Magallanes
Laura Rigas
Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele
Tami Heilemann
Heather Swift

Drive time: ~1 hour

8:30-9:30am EDT:

Breakfast Meeting with Katahdin Chamber of Commerce & Local Councilmen

Location: River Driver's Restaurant & Pub
Press: Open

9:30-10:55am EDT:

Depart Millinocket en route Indian Island

Location:

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle:

Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton
Scott Hommel
Downey Magallanes
Laura Rigas
Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele
Tami Heilemann
Heather Swift

Drive Time: ~1 hour, 30 minutes

10:55am EDT:

Arrive Indian Island Bridge // Proceed to Natural Resources Building

Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building
27 Wabanaki Way
Indian Island, ME

Note: Chief of Police Bob Bryant and two cruisers will escort to meeting

11:00-11:05am EDT:

Arrive Nicholas Sapiel, Jr. Natural Resources Building

Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building
Greeted By: Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation

Note: Introduction to WWII Penobscot Veteran Charles Norman Shay

11:05-11:10am EDT:

Opening Prayer & Introductions

Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building
Attendees: Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation
Maulian Dana, Council Member
Charlene Virgilio, Council Member
Donna Loring, Council Member
Mark Chavaree, Internal Legal Counsel
Bob Bryant, Chief of Police
John Banks, Director of Natural Resources
Jill Thompkins, Director of Courts
James Francis, Director of Culture and Historic Preservation
Dr. Ben Huerth, Medical Director
Press: Closed

11:10-11:35am EDT: Presentation of Interior-Funded Programs at the Penobscot Nation

Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building
Attendees: Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation
Maulian Dana, Council Member
Charlene Virgilio, Council Member
Donna Loring, Council Member
Mark Chavaree, Internal Legal Counsel
Bob Bryant, Chief of Police
John Banks, Director of Natural Resources
Jill Thompkins, Director of Courts
James Francis, Director of Culture and Historic Preservation
Dr. Ben Huerth, Medical Director

11:35-11:55am EDT: Discussion of the Importance of the Interior Department as a Trustee

Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building
Attendees: Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation
Maulian Dana, Council Member
Charlene Virgilio, Council Member
Donna Loring, Council Member
Mark Chavaree, Internal Legal Counsel
Bob Bryant, Chief of Police
John Banks, Director of Natural Resources
Jill Thompkins, Director of Courts
James Francis, Director of Culture and Historic Preservation
Dr. Ben Huerth, Medical Director

11:55-12:00pm EDT: Conclusion of Meeting

12:00-1:30pm EDT: Depart Indian Island en route Augusta

Location:
Vehicle Manifest:
Secretary's Vehicle:
Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton
Scott Hommel
Downey Magallanes
Laura Rigas
Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele
Tami Heilemann
Heather Swift

Drive Time: ~1 hour, 30 minutes

1:30-2:00pm EDT: Quick Lunch

2:00-3:00pm EDT: Roundtable with Maine Woods Coalition
 Location: Maine Forest Products Council Building
 535 Civic Center Drive
 Augusta, ME 04330
 Participants:
 Press:
 Staff:
 Advance:

3:00-3:30pm EDT: HOLD: Media Availability
 Location:

3:30-4:15pm EDT: Depart Augusta en route Freeport
 Location:
 Vehicle Manifest:
 Secretary's Vehicle:
 Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton
 Scott Hommel
 Downey Magallanes
 Laura Rigas
 Aaron Thiele
 Tami Heilemann
 Heather Swift
 Staff Vehicle 2:
 Aaron Thiele
 Tami Heilemann
 Heather Swift
 Drive Time: ~40 minutes

4:30-5:30pm EDT: Meeting with L.L. Bean
 Location:

5:30-7:30pm EDT: Depart Freeport en route Boston, MA
 Location:
 Vehicle Manifest:
 Secretary's Vehicle:
 Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton
 Scott Hommel
 Downey Magallanes
 Laura Rigas
 Aaron Thiele
 Tami Heilemann
 Heather Swift
 Staff Vehicle 2:
 Aaron Thiele
 Tami Heilemann
 Heather Swift
 Drive time: ~2 hours, 5 minutes

7:30-9:00pm EDT: Private Dinner
 Location: 94 Whitin Avenue
 Revere, MA 02151

9:00-9:30pm EDT: Depart Revere, MA en route RON
 Location: Hilton Boston Downtown/Fanueil Hall
 89 Broad Street
 Boston, MA 02110

9:30pm EDT: RON

Friday, June 16, 2017

Boston, MA → Washington, DC

11:00-12:00am EDT: Fishermen Roundtable

Location: Legal Seafood Harborside
270 Northern Avenue
Boston, MA 02210
Participants: 20 people from fishing groups
Press: Open

Dr. Scott Kraus, VP of Research, New England Aquarium with FWS Interim Superintendent
MA Secretary Matt Beaton
USS Constitution

8:00pm EDT-

9:47pm EDT: Wheels up Boston, MA (BOS) en route Washington, DC (DCA)

Flight: American Airlines 2116
Flight time: 1 hour, 47 minutes
RZ Seat:
AiC: Sgt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Staff:

MET BY MOONLIGHT

by

Peter Byrne

With assistance from West Wing Writers
Katie Atkinson, Kathryn Burns-Yocum, Emma Wesslund and Noreen Major

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

Ryan Zinke

Prologue Chorus One

Prologue Chorus Two

Prologue Chorus Three

Prologue Chorus Four

Prologue Chorus Five

Prologue Chorus Six

Forest Spirit One

Forest Spirit Two

Forest Spirit Three

Oberon (Ian Kahn)

Puck (Maulik Pancholy)

Park Ranger One (Emily Swallow)

Park Ranger Two (Santino Fontana)

Ranger Trainee One

Ranger Trainee Two

Ranger Trainee Three

Barista One

Barista Two

Barista Three

Barista Four

Congressional Aide One

Congressional Aide Two

Congressional Aide Three

Representative One

Representative Two

Representative Three

Reporter One

Reporter Two

Reporter Three

Reporter Four

Bureaucrat One

Bureaucrat Two

Bureaucrat Three

Bureaucrat Four

Tourist Husband One

Tourist Wife One

Tourist Husband Two

Tourist Wife Two

Teen One

Teen Two

Titania

Ariel

Epilogue Chorus One

Epilogue Chorus Two

Epilogue Chorus Three

Epilogue Chorus Four

Epilogue Chorus Five

Epilogue Chorus Six

Epilogue Chorus Seven

RYAN ZINKE

*Two rangers, both alike in dignity,
In fair Patuxent, where we lay our scene,
From road closures break to new mutiny,
Where civil service makes civil hands clean.
From forth the lovely grounds of this fair park
A pair of forest rangers meet with Puck;
Their misadventured enthusiastic overthrows
Do with their dedication bury Oberon's strife.
The fearful passage of DC residents,
And the continuance of the fairies' rage,
Which, but the rangers' intervention, nought could remove,
Is now the one hours' traffic of our stage;
Give or take fifteen minutes
The which if you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.
(exiting) A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!*

(PROLOGUE CHORUS enters.)

PROLOGUE CHORUS ONE

Of all the woes we face in Washington
There's one that plagues us worst and that's the sun.
We breeze through spring and autumn in "this town"
And snowless winters don't bring us down.
But when the blaze of summertime arrives
The city's denizens run for their lives.

PROLOGUE CHORUS TWO

And oh, that steamy harsh humidity
Like Inauguration, when it comes, we flee.
In cooler seasons, cooler heads prevail
But when the summer hits this town, we bail.
For nothing's getting done when it's so hot
So those who can, seek out some cooler spot

PROLOGUE CHORUS THREE

But what if all the roads by which we fly
Were closed to us oh, what then would we try?
What if the paths that lead us out of town
Were, on a summer's day, closed off, shut down?
This awful scene our pageant now portrays
When DC suffers in the doggish days

PROLOGUE CHORUS FOUR

And no one can escape by road or street
And so our city's folk take to their feet.
And finding that the Metro is on fire
Our dear subway is a flaming pyre!
They travel through the forests, and lo' they find
The mighty king of all of fairie kind.

PROLOGUE CHORUS FIVE

This mighty king's not in a kindly mood--
He doesn't favor those who dare intrude.
He and his puckish servant show their wrath
To those who tread upon the woody path.

PROLOGUE CHORUS SIX

So sit and watch as these two trickster sprites
Give wayward mortals startles, fits, and frights
And as we see their fates both foul and fair
Let's all give thanks this place has central air.

(PROLOGUE CHORUS MEMBERS exit. FOREST SPIRIT ONE, TWO, and
THREE enter.)

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Good evening, and welcome to (reacts to the heat) Good *Lord* it is hot. This
isn't funny I've forgotten my opening line that's how hot it is.

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

Where are we, exactly?

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

I'm not sure you spend your entire life wandering through trees and arbors and whatnot, they all start to look the same after a while.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

It's true it seems as if all we ever do is travel through forests.

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

We've run into Hillary Clinton twice already.

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Forests and meadows.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

And glades.

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

Over hill, over dale--

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Through bush, and through brier,

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Over park, over pale--

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

Through flood and through fire,

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

We do wander everywhere,

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Swifter than the moon's sphere.

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

And in case you couldn't tell from the outfits and the rhyming couplets, we are Shakespearean fairies!

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Indeed. We are magical spirits of the forest, tricksters and merry-makers you might know us as nymphs!

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Are we nymphs? Are you sure? I always thought we were sprites!

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Sprites? No, no, I think you have to be European to be a sprite. I'm pretty sure it has something to do with Brexit.

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

What about pixies? Could we be pixies?

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

I don't want to get into labels. The pundits like to slice and dice us into red sprites and blue sprites... but I just see us as one United Sprites.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Whatever. Besides, it's too hot to argue.

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

Unless you're Elizabeth Warren at a confirmation hearing.

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Nevertheless she perspired.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Hotter than Melissa McCarthy on a portable podium.

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

That's not just hot; it's spicy!

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Our King and his servant Puck will not be pleased when they arrive.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Oh, right! (to audience) We come before you to announce the arrival of the King of our kind to these woods.

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

And his servant Puck.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Yes, yes, and his servant Puck. We come to clear the way, set the scene, and make sure they have refreshments waiting for them, because between you and me, they can be total divas.

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Shakespearean demigods are like Mariah Carey or Axl Rose if everything isn't perfect, total meltdown.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

We should also mention that, wherever our master Oberon travels, his magical aura travels with him. Think of it as an Elizabethan advance team.

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

Which means that people who enter into these woods will probably be dressed in, let's say, "period outfits." (motions to own outfits)

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Here they come! Attend them, fellow nymph.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

I keep telling you, I don't think that's what we are!

(OBERON and PUCK enter. If possible, with fanfare. OBERON is very impressive. PUCK is, well, puckish.)

OBERON

(to the audience) Greetings, mortals. Give heed, for you are in the presence of royalty.

PUCK

Sire, are we really breaking the fourth wall this early in the evening?

OBERON

We are and we're going to make the audience pay for it! I am the King of the Fairies--immortal, and nigh-omnipotent I shall not be confined by artificial notions of suspended disbelief and theatrical decorum.

shall not be confined by artificial notions of suspended disbelief and theatrical decorum.

PUCK

(holding up binder) Plus it makes it easier for us to just read from these scripts.

OBERON

Indeed.

PUCK

(to audience) And so, to introductions--

OBERON

I am Oberon, King of the Fairies--

PUCK

And I am Puck, his chief of staff (Oberon gives him a look) I thought we agreed to this! (Another look) Ok. Fine. I am Puck, his servant and jester. Through the world of nature, we roam *Over hill, over dale, Through bush and through briar*

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Uh, we already did that speech.

PUCK

You stole my speech? Michelle, I feel your pain! Oh, I am so going to transform you into something unspeakable...like a white pantsuit after Labor Day !

OBERON

(to audience) To this forest we have come to (starts to feel the heat)--we come to Good *Lord* it is hot. Why would anyone make a place this hot?

PUCK

(needling) Thanks global warming!

OBERON

Oh, don't you start.

PUCK

(to audience) My lord is proud, and he's never going to admit it, but here's the thing: we're a little lost. Because it doesn't matter if a guy is "immortal and nigh-omnipotent" he will not consult Google Maps.

OBERON

I don't trust her!

PUCK

Look, we're supposed to be headed for the woods outside of D.C.--just get out your phone and call someone who knows. Call Nick Bottom.

OBERON

Siri keeps sending me to "Foggy Bottom" instead. All I found there were college students and trashy bars...

PUCK

Well then, call Peter Quince.

OBERON

Tried that, too Siri only heard "Quince" and sent me to the Dupont farmers market. You've never seen so much Lululemon in one place.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Um. Sire?

OBERON

(noticing them for the first time) Oh. You three. Did you announce our arrival to the audience?

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

We did, sire.

OBERON

Then why are you still here? And where is my glacier water and avocado toast?

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

Sire

OBERON

What? What??

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Well, sire, we were having a bit of an argument, and what with you being immortal and nigh-omnipotent, we thought you might be able to settle it.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

But if we don't like your decision, we're going to appeal it to the Supreme Court.

OBERON

Ugh. Go on.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Sire what are we? I say we're sprites--

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

And I say we're pixies!

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Or maybe nymphs.

OBERON

Oh, I see. Well, yes, I can resolve this pressing matter. Come closer, and I'll tell you what you are: (They lean in the bellows) You're ensemble. Now get offstage and find us refreshments.

(FOREST SPIRITS ONE, TWO, and THREE exit.)

PUCK

(calling after them) *Iced* drinks. And maybe a little something from Pineapple and Pearls. And a reservation for tomorrow night at Minibar. Okaythanksbye!!!

OBERON

We don't have time for your whining, if you have a problem with me, just deal with it the polite way--by dropping an anonymous quote in *The Washington Post*. We have to figure out where we are.

PUCK

Never fear. If I know anything about the theater, it's that when one character expresses a lack of information, the next character onstage will deliver that information while entering.

(FOREST RANGER ONE and FOREST RANGER TWO enter. She is earnest, polite, and unflappable. He is jaded and snarky. With them are TRAINEES ONE, TWO, and THREE overeager, wanna-be Alphas.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

(Speaking while entering) OK, so welcome to the Patuxent Research Reserve, located just northeast of Washington D.C.

PUCK

Am I right, or am I right? (Puck shimmies)

OBERON

Stop preening. I can't believe you just... *shimmied*.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Since you three are going to be interning here for the summer, we'll start with a tour around the grounds while my partner goes over the orientation. Now I don't want to see you texting through it or I'll feed you to the ducks they're more vicious than they look.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Ahem. (Clears her throat, and begins to give a 'tour guide' performance, complete with heavy emphasis and broad gestures.) Covering nearly 13,000 acres of pristine wilderness, the Patuxent Research Reserve is the only National Nature reserve in the United States to support wildlife research. The Reserve was founded in 1936 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt--

TRAINEE ONE

We already know all that! We've been prepping for this job ever since our parents put us on the waitlist for Beauvoir.

TRAINEE TWO

(to audience) There's no better internship than this. We get to be outside. We get to volunteer.

TRAINEE THREE

It is the plum of all extracurricular activities we nail this gig, and it's a straight shot to Yale.

TRAINEE ONE

Environmentalism AND D.C. volunteerism AND my dad only needed to donate \$10 grand for me to get it!

TRAINEE TWO

We have read up, prepped, studied, and typed so much into our tablets that our thumbs are numb.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Well great! Great! Most people aren't as enthusiastic about ecological work (shoots FOREST RANGER TWO a look)

FOREST RANGER TWO

Hey, once you've been working here as long as I have, there's only so much excitement you can muster.

TRAINEE THREE

Plus our work here today gets us out of D.C.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Why, what's wrong with D.C.?

FOREST RANGER TWO

What isn't wrong with DC? The traffic, the tourists, the fact that it's Hollywood for ugly people. I could keep going.

TRAINEE ONE

You haven't heard? It's totally shut down!

FOREST RANGER TWO

That partisan gridlock is just the worst, isn't it?

TRAINEE TWO

No, no literally. The city is literally shut down!

OBERON

Uh oh. I do not like the sound of this.

PUCK

(excited) I smell a comedic premise coming up!

FOREST RANGER TWO

What are you saying?

TRAINEE THREE

You haven't been to the city lately, have you?

FOREST RANGER ONE

I have not. Most nights I camp out in the Reserve.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Yeah, why would we want to leave the thriving metropolis of Laurel, Maryland?

TRAINEE ONE

You know where New York Avenue turns into 395 which turns into 95?

FOREST RANGER ONE

...sure.

TRAINEE TWO

Well, not any more they don't. Apparently the money finally came in for infrastructure repair but it came in for every single highway, road, and rail-line, all at the same time. There was some confusion --

TRAINEE THREE

And somehow every single one is now shut down for construction!

TRAINEE ONE

Every major highway out of D.C. is shut down for the foreseeable future!

TRAINEE TWO

Reagan is so jammed up that the TSA pre-check line is out the door.

TRAINEE THREE

And there's no way to make it all the way out to Dulles.

TRAINEE ONE

Don't you need a passport to get there?

TRAINEE TWO

Plus, Biden took the last Amtrak out of town.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Well, I'm sure that the Safetrack project is complete, and the Metro is still open and running as efficiently as ever.

(Pause, then all the human characters and possibly the seated volunteers break out into raucous laughter.)

PUCK

(to audience) Ladies and gentlemen, you have the premise of tonight's show.

TRAINEE THREE

OK, so, now that the exposition's out of the way, let's talk about renovating this place.

FOREST RANGER ONE

I'm sorry, what?

TRAINEE ONE

We want to make some changes to the Reserve. We have some ideas.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Oh, this should be good. Continue.

TRAINEE TWO

For example, have you thought about changing the motto?

FOREST RANGER ONE

It's a nature reserve it doesn't have a motto!

FOREST RANGER TWO

Although I did used to think "Patuxent is An Open Door" had a nice ring to it...

TRAINEE THREE

Don't you think it should? You're never going to turn this place profitable unless you focus on branding!

FOREST RANGER ONE

What?!

TRAINEE ONE

Check this out new motto for Patunxet:

*This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself*

TRAINEE TWO

*Against infection and the hand of war--
This earth of majesty, this little world,*

TRAINEE THREE

*This precious stone set in the silver sea,
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this Patuxent Research Reserve .*

FOREST RANGER ONE

(after a horrified pause) O...K. But...

FOREST RANGER TWO

Hey, if they want to waste a whole summer trying to get people excited about this place, let them try.

TRAINEE ONE

But we need to be able to drive new users, generate new content, leverage capacities, and improve 10 times.

TRAINEE TWO

If we can't tell a metrics-based success story in our cover letter, and then it's "goodbye, Harvard."

TRAINEE THREE

And we're stuck with our safety school, Cornell.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Yeah, that sounds like a real tragedy.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Look, can I get on with this orientation?

TRAINEE ONE

And that's another thing this place isn't very user-friendly.

TRAINEE TWO

For example, what about installing a moving sidewalk so visitors don't have to use their legs so much?

FOREST RANGER ONE

Well, that would defeat the purpose of hiking

FOREST RANGER TWO

I think they could be on to something there...

TRAINEE THREE

Ooo and what about installing soda fountains that would cool down guests and boost revenue

FOREST RANGER ONE

The effect on the ecosystem would be devastating

FOREST RANGER TWO

And I'm trying to cut out sugar I've almost completely switched to La Croix.

TRAINEE ONE

How about we hand out those hats with the electric fans to every visitor--

FOREST RANGER ONE

We're not really budgeted for that

TRAINEE TWO

(tapping on phone) On it--I'm logging onto Kickstarter right now!

FOREST RANGER ONE

Please don't do any of these things!

FOREST RANGER TWO

Except the moving sidewalk, let's keep that.

TRAINEE THREE

Too late! We're already raised eighty-thousand dollars from our parents colleagues!

FOREST RANGER ONE

Look, nature doesn't need to be improved! It's called the 'great' outdoors, not the 'could do with an upgrade' outdoors! Look at all we provide and protect! Wetlands and woods! Wild animals and native flora! Trees and rivers and the smell of fresh soil underfoot!

TRAINEE ONE

(beat) I'm not seeing how any of those things will strengthen my college application.

TRAINEE TWO

Dreams indeed are ambition, for the very substance of the ambitious is merely the shadow of a dream.

TRAINEE ONE

A dream itself is but a shadow.

TRAINEE THREE

Truly, and I hold ambition of so airy and light a quality that it is but a shadow's shadow.

OBERON

(coming forward) Enough, it's too early in the evening for Hamlet!

TRAINEE ONE

(terrified) Who are you?

TRAINEE TWO

What are you?

OBERON

Silence! (to FOREST RANGERS) Your reverence for nature pleases us. Please step aside.

PUCK

(excitedly to the audience) When Oberon is wrathful, you want to watch out. (to the front rows) The first three rows are the ‘splash zone.’

OBERON

(to the TRAINEES) For your disrespect for the forest and your appalling self-starterism, you shall be cursed most terribly.

TRAINEE THREE

What are you going to do?

TRAINEE ONE

Oh, God, he’s going to give us donkey’s ears or antlers!

TRAINEE TWO

Please don’t give us antlers! I’ve seen that Snapchat filter, and it’s not pretty.

OBERON

(laughs derisively) Antlers? Please. Nothing so mild. No, the curse I pronounce on you is this:

PUCK

Here it comes!

OBERON

For the rest of your lives, your Ubers will always be surge-priced, and your Tinder profiles swiped left.

(TRAINEES wail at this terrible fate, and exit.)

PUCK

You know, I’m the incarnation of mischief, but even I gotta say: that was cruel.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Um, what about us?

OBERON

Ah, yes, the tolerable ones. Step forward, mortals. (The FOREST RANGERS do)
Now. Tell us once again the name of this forest.

FOREST RANGER ONE

You are in the Patuxent Research Reserve.

FOREST RANGER TWO

And after all that time we spent putting up signs...See? No one reads anything.

PUCK

"The Patuxent Research Reserve." Doesn't exactly trip off the tongue, does it?

OBERON

It is most...prosaic.

FOREST RANGER TWO

You've got that right

FOREST RANGER ONE

(goes into her spiel again, complete with the same voice and gestures as before)
Covering nearly 13,000 acres of pristine wilderness, the Patuxent Research Reserve is the only National Nature reserve in the United States to support--

PUCK

Shhhhhh.....(she tries to speak)....nope....bip....bippit....zipp...(he gives up)

OBERON

If this place truly is, as you say, pristine wilderness, then perhaps it will do for our purposes.

FOREST RANGER TWO

And what are those purposes, exactly?

PUCK

My master is scoping out real estate in the area to see if he wants to relocate here.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Oh, You want to move to the DMV?

OBERON

Well, we like to take in the theater, and we hear there's a place around here that does really good Shakespeare.

PUCK

Plus Doug Jemal said this is the new 14th Street. I hear they're opening a new Game of Thrones speakeasy here and everything.

FOREST RANGER TWO

And so you guys will...live in the forest?

OBERON

Kalorama's just too crowded these days.

PUCK

So we will live here, is there a problem?

FOREST RANGER TWO

Well, apart from the heat

(OBERON and PUCK groan.)

PUCK

Yeah, what's up with that?

FOREST RANGER ONE

Well, I don't suppose you'd like to hear the National Park Service's prepared statement on the perils of climate change

PUCK

Are you still allowed to even say those words?

FOREST RANGER TWO

Old habits. But why do you want to live in a forest?

OBERON

Because we're fairies.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Are you still allowed to say *that* word?

OBERON

Fairies. Magical beings. Immortal and nigh-omnipotent. I am Oberon King of the Fairies, Prince of the Forests, Firstborn of the Fey Folk, and Rightful Lord of Mount Vernon.

PUCK

(to audience, pointing at OBERON) Two points to House Lannister (they high five) (to FOREST RANGERS) Look, didn't you ever read *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in high school?

FOREST RANGER ONE

The only Shakespeare we learn in forestry school is "exit pursued by bear."

OBERON

How sad.

PUCK

Look, we (gestures wildly to himself and Oberon) are walking deus-ex-machinas. We can control the tide, the sun, the sky

FOREST RANGER TWO

(singing "You're Welcome" from Moana) Hey, it's okay, it's okay, you're welcome I'm just an ordinary demi-guy....(realizes they are all staring at him) what? No Moana fans? Tough crowd. Can you do something about the heat?

OBERON

No some things are so awful, not even the gods can prevent them.

PUCK

Like Saturday nights in Adams Morgan.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Well, I suppose we in the National Park Service wouldn't have a problem with you living here. Patuxent is a nature preserve, and you guys are, well, nature personified

OBERON

Excellent. But we do like our privacy.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Then you're in luck, it's the height of summer nobody in D.C. will be bothering you.

PUCK

(violently shudders at the reactions of the other two) Sorry, I just felt a sudden chill of dramatic foreboding.

(BARISTAS ONE, TWO, THREE, and FOUR enter as they make their ways to the podiums, the FOREST RANGERS spot them.)

BARISTA ONE

Oh, good. More forest guys, I'm starting to question our decision to do this on foot!

BARISTA TWO

Please would you rather be back slinging coffee?

BARISTA THREE

I know I'm not going back yesterday the Hill staffers in line were so busy with their phones; no one looked up to appreciate my latte art. I even got their names right on the cups....

FOREST RANGER TWO

Stop! Pause! Two questions: Who are you? What are you doing here?

BARISTA FOUR

(loud and proud) We...are the Baristas of D.C., and it's morning again in America.

(All three BARISTAS strike heroic poses.)

ALL BARISTAS

Coffeemakers of the Capital, unite!

PARK RANGER TWO

O....K....Is that like a vigilante group, or a union--

BARISTA ONE

A union? You clearly are from some magical realm.

BARISTA TWO

The city would collapse without us.

BARISTA THREE

Up before dawn, we grind the beans--

BARISTA FOUR

We filter the water--

BARISTA ONE

--we stack the cup sleeves so you don't burn your fingers carrying your large, triple shot, extra foam over to the sugar-and-cream counter

BARISTA TWO

When morning comes, we are the ones who open your eyes to it. With shots of espresso

BARISTA THREE

Ah, espresso *Put it in any liquid thing you will,
And drink it off; and, you will have the strength
Of twenty men.*

BARISTA FOUR

I'm pretty sure Shakespeare was writing about poison.

(They Shrug)

OBERON

So, these guys make coffee?

FOREST RANGER ONE

They do. Don't you have baristas in your kingdom?

PUCK

No, we're mostly into cold-pressed juice these days.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Well, we have people who became masters of espresso because they majored in sociology

BARISTA ONE

Actually, some of us majored in philosophy but the espresso mastery part is true.

BARISTA TWO

Just remember the rules: no camping, the sugar and milk bar are just props, no I won't watch your stuff, and ordering a decaf mocha is just dumb.

BARISTA THREE

Our skill is great, and our numbers are legion.

BARISTA FOUR

In D.C. alone, there are thousands and thousands of us!

FOREST RANGER ONE

Then why am I seeing only four of you?

BARISTA FOUR

(dropping character for a second looks awkwardly at the audience and then back at the Ranger gesturing to the audience)) Well, for one thing, this is a volunteer performance.

BARISTA THREE

Plus we don't have the room to show us all onstage!

BARISTA ONE

*Can this cockpit hold
The vast coffeeshops of Columbia?*

BARISTA TWO

*or may we cram
Within this wooden O the very steamers
That doth affright the air at Starbucks?*

BARISTA THREE

*(aside)Suspension of disbelief, folks.
Since a crooked figure may
Attest in little place a million;
And let us, ciphers to this great account,
On your imaginary forces work.*

BARISTA FOUR

*Piece out our imperfections with your thoughts;
Into a thousand parts divide on man,
And make imaginary might*

BARISTA ONE

In other words, cut us some slack enjoy the magic of theater, people!

FOREST RANGER TWO

But its Frappuchino Happy Hour, shouldn't you be blending Unicorn Fraps?

BARISTA TWO

Are you kidding? It's summer in D.C. We just stock up the self-service fridge with cold brew and hit the road!

FOREST RANGER ONE

Fair enough. But why are you here in this forest?

BARISTA THREE

Because my girlfriend is creating a blend for competition and we heard there's some killer fiddleheads out here.

FOREST RANGER TWO

You're looking on foot? In the forest?

BARISTA FOUR

Yes and yes.

FOREST RANGER ONE

You guys can't come through here and harvest things.

BARISTA ONE

Why not?

FOREST RANGER ONE

Um...well....

PUCK

(to OBERON) Sire, we may not have the cleverest mortals working for us.

OBERON

Then let's help. (makes himself visible, speaks to the BARISTAS) Now harken to me, you three purveyors of mildly addictive legal stimulants! This forest is closed to mortals! You shall all return from whence you came forthwith!

PUCK

He likes to bust out the thesaurus when he's making his pronouncements.

OBERON

(as Donald Trump) I have the best words.

PUCK

And he'll keep going longer than a Democrat in a filibuster.

BARISTA THREE

Woah! Were you hiding in the bushes this whole time?!

BARISTA TWO

And who are you to say the forest is closed? The government didn't shut down, you can't stop us!

PUCK

Ah, but has it occurred to you--if the whole city is going to be stuck you know what they'll all need? Gallons of cold brew and those tips will be yours!

BARISTA FOUR

Tips...

BARISTAONE

Gotta respect the tips.

BARISTA TWO

Fine, fine you win

My poverty, but not my will, consents.

PUCK

I pay thy poverty, and not thy will.

BARISTA THREE

--but mark my words we're only the first of many visitors you're about to have

BARISTA FOUR

D.C. is emptying out, and they're all headed this way.

ALL BARISTAS

To the French presses!

(The BARISTAS exit.)

OBERON

Well, that was easy enough.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Didn't you hear what that one said? There are others coming this way.

OBERON

Then this will be a long day of shapeshifting and slant rhyming...

PUCK

Ooo! Ooo! Let's put donkey heads on all the Democrats and elephant heads on all the Republicans!

OBERON

Little 'on the nose,' I think.

FOREST RANGER ONE

OK, transforming any visitors to the Patuxent Reserve into half-human monstrosities would be a violation of National Parks Service Policy, as introducing a non-native species into this environment would have devastating consequences

FOREST RANGER TWO

And as much as I'd like to, and I would really like to, you can't go around transforming people just because they're annoying. MSNBC would have to cancel Morning Joe *and* The Rachel Maddow Show. Every season of *The Bachelor* would be, like, 20 seconds long.

PUCK

*That which we call a rose
By any other name would never smell as sweet-*

FOREST RANGER ONE

Might I suggest a compromise? Could we just please try *talking* to these people?

OBERON

That seems awfully time-consuming.

PUCK

Shapeshifting them into something hilarious is so much quicker. (getting carried away) What if we, like, turned them all into the Walkers from Walking Dead or send them to the upside down like Stranger Things, and then we made them all fight each other? It'd be like the ultimate fan fiction come to life!

OBERON

You need to spend less time on Reddit.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Please, just let's try it her way. Look, here comes a group of visitors let's see what they have to say.

OBERON

(In a huff) Very well. Will no one rid me of these meddlesome mortals?

(CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE, CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO, and CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE enter. They are all harried and miserable.)

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE

O Jupiter, how weary are my spirits!

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO

I care not for my spirits, if my legs were not weary.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

I pray you, bear with me; I cannot go no further.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE

For my part, I had rather bear with you than bear you.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO

Well, this is the forest of Patuxent.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

Ay, now am I in Patuxent; the more fool I; when I was at home, I was in a better place: but travellers must be content.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Well, they all look harried and miserable and bleary-eyed from lack of sleep I'm guessing they must be Congressional Aides.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

You're darned right we are I've got the student loan debt and the iPhone hunch to prove it.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE

I am a-weary, give me leave awhile:

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO

*Fie, how my bones ache! what a jaunt have I had!
Do you not see that I am out of breath?*

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

*How art thou out of breath when thou hast breath
To say to me that thou art out of breath?*

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE

We're what happens when you let your idealism battle to override long days standing in hallways answering a million questions while being asked if there is someone more important constituents can talk to.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO

Now, get out of our way we need to put as much distance between us and D.C. as we can before they realize we've gone!

FOREST RANGER ONE

So you guys are fleeing the D.C. heatwave, too?

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

Partly. But mostly, we're getting away from our bosses!

FOREST RANGER ONE

Your bosses? Wait, you're bailing on the Members you work for?

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE

Well, not so much them--

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO

Yeah, the Members are actually pretty cool.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

And we're not just saying that because we're standing onstage with a bunch of them.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE

That is a factor, though.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO

Oh, totally. It's just that during the summer, our jobs...change.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

With the adjournment, our work is less about "helping to craft and pass legislation," and more about showing people from the home district around. I don't know how many times I've been asked if I could point out the Liberty Bell.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE

Members of Congress are wonderful (again to the volunteers) truly, totally but when summer comes, they try to catch up on all the new technology, and it never goes well. Nothing is scarier than when your boss asks for their own Twitter password.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO

Have you ever seen a documentary called "Weiner"?

OBERON

(to PUCK) I don't think I want to.

PUCK

This Twitter seems dangerous but you staffers are the best and brightest! Surely, you can handle it.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

We just want a break, that's all and this forest is the only place we'll find it.
Weary with toil, I haste me to the woods,

the dear repose for limbs with travel tired.

Seriously, outta the way!

PUCK

(with feeling) We have heard your cries, and we feel your pain.

OBERON

Your plight is clearly desperate. Nay,woeful. Nay, pathetic. Enough! You're bumming me out! This is supposed to be a comedy, not *Manchester by the Sea*! (Everyone stares at him.) Seriously, people. Anyway--your suffering has moved me I hereby grant you my leave to pass through this forest unscathed.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE

But our bosses will chase after us wherever we go!

PUCK

Fear not! I shall disguise you in the one form that they will never want to see a town hall attendee. (Everybody shudders.)

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

Thank you! Thank you so much!

(The CONGRESSIONAL AIDES depart.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

OK, so, see two groups of Washingtonians dispatched, and no need to go all presto-chango on them! Being nice to people is fun!

PUCK

Being nice only if they deserve it.

FOREST RANGER TWO

And they so rarely deserve it.

PUCK

Exactly. Most people who cross our path are in need of a little correction.

OBERON

Enlightenment.

PUCK

But not that liberal coastal elite kind.

OBERON

The kind that only a fairy with magical powers can provide.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Someone's getting turned into something horrible before this is all over, aren't they?

PUCK

...yyyyeah.

FOREST RANGER TWO

(Sarcastically) In that case, I hope that whoever shows up next will be polite and respectful and not at all antagonistic.

PUCK

Wow, that setup was as subtle as a sledgehammer, wasn't it?

(REPRESENTATIVE ONE, REPRESENTATIVE TWO, and REPRESENTATIVE THREE enter. They are very, very cranky.)

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

Where are they?

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

I know they came this way I can smell the Redbull and tears!

*Oh, when these our staffers have all gone,
Our lives, which lean on them and all they do,
sink down to death, oppress'd with melancholy.*

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

*I do not joy, am no longer glad,
I call them back again and straight grow sad.*

Those aides can't abandon us and get away with it!

FOREST RANGER TWO

I recognize these three they're Members of Congress! They must be looking for the Aides that just ran past.

PUCK

I believe in Washington you call that leading from behind.

OBERON

Stop that. (PUCK gestures, about to transform them) I want to terrify these intruders! (to the REPRESENTATIVES) Halt, you three! You tread in the forest kingdom of Oberon, King of the Fairies, Prince of the Forests, Firstborn of the Fey Folk, and Rightful Lord

PUCK

Seriously, boss this evening is already long enough. (to REPRESENTATIVES) And I am his deadly-albeit-adorable servant Puck! Bet you're all terrified, huh?

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

(no, they aren't) We are not. Those names mean nothing to us!

OBERON

Seriously? Does *no one* read Shakespeare anymore?

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

Of course we read Shakespeare. He just means that those names mean nothing to us ---unless you live in my district.

OBERON

Excuse me?

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

Fella, when you're responsible for the legislative agenda of a country of over 300 million people, you're not gonna get all fluttery over some fictional woodsy creatures! We save that for CBO scores.

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

Now, step aside. We've been abandoned by our aides, and we know they came this way we need them back!

FOREST RANGER ONE

Because you need their help in carrying out your legislative agendas?

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

What? No. It's the summer nobody's doing any legislating until the leaves change.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Then why do you need them back?

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

Because those little rascallions locked our Twitter accounts.

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

Now, how are we supposed to know the latest White House position on U.S. foreign policy?

OBERON

Alas I must tell you that your former lackeys are beyond your reach!

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

Listen, they keep track of ALL our passwords. I can't even log into my Gmail account. Not that I would ever use an unclassified system to communicate classified information.

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

Exactly, and I need my Instagram login-- my constituents depend on me to explain policy with videos.

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

Now out of our way we're not stopping until we catch them and bring them back!

OBERON

I'm sorry you three mortals are challenging me, the King of these woods?

FOREST RANGER ONE

Technically, these are more 'wetlands' than 'woods'

FOREST RANGER TWO

Seriously people, we put out brochures all over the park!

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

I'm pretty sure the Parks and Rec subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the parks service budget... so I think *I'm* actually the king of these woods.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Actually, I'm pretty sure Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke is the king of these woods, but he had to go earlier, so, sure, Congressman, we'll go with that.

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

Do ye yield, sir? or shall I sweat for you? if I do sweat, they are the drops of thy lovers, and they weep for thy death: therefore rouse up fear and trembling, and do observance to my mercy.

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

I have a whole school of tongues in this belly of mine, and not a tongue of them all speaks any other word but my name.

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

I have speeded hither with the very extremest inch of possibility; I have foundered nine score and odd posts: and here, travel-tainted as I am, I shall throw you o'er.

OBERON

Well, on the one hand, I'm impressed by your ability to quote *Henry IV Part Two* that's a Shakespearean deep cut.

PUCK

(offering a fist bump to the closest REPRESENTATIVE) Respect.

OBERON

But on the other hand, you just insulted a King in the heart of his kingdom! You leave me no choice. Actually, you leave me with a lot of choices, and I'm going to go with the meanest one I can think of.

PUCK

Get ready! The mischief train is pulling into the station! (Train noise)

OBERON

You you're a Republican, aren't you?

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

A proud member of the Party of Lincoln.

PUCK

Lincoln was a Republican? Wow!

OBERON

Well, Mr. Republican, you will now only be able to say the opposite of what you believe! (Makes a magic gesture sound effect, if possible.)

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

Oh please that's ridiculous almost as ridiculous as regulatory reform. After all, what's a regulation but a protection. Come to think of it, we should have MORE regulations. (Gasps, claps his hand over his mouth.)

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

Dude, the Koch Brothers are going to disown you.

PUCK

Oh, this is fun let me try. You you're a Democrat, right?

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

I am, and proud to say so!

PUCK

Not for long! (Magical gesture.)

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

Speaking as a Democrat, I have to say: Charter Schools should be seen as a leg up for kids and a chance for students in the public-school system to expand their horizons. we should really increase their funding! Or just go straight to vouchers. (Claps hand over mouth.)

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

Oh, man George Soros just deleted your number from his phone.

OBERON

(to REPRESENTATIVE THREE) And then there was one...

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

Please! I'm a registered Independent. There's nothing you can do that'll cause me to lose my constituents.

OBERON

Oh, an Independent, are we? So, your supporters won't riot when they hear you say (Magical gesture.)

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

Bernie Sanders is overrated! (Claps hand over mouth.)

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

This isn't fair! Almost as unfair as environmental regulations on corporations. They're people, too! Oh, no! (Claps hands over mouth again.)

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

This should be illegal! Unlike marijuana, which should be legalized for medicinal and recreational use! (Claps hands over mouth again.)

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

(as everyone looks his way) Oh, no, I'm gonna stay silent on this one. Just like I'm gonna stay silent on how I've never liked *Hamilton*! (Claps hands over mouth.)

FOREST RANGER TWO

Wow, Twitter is just gonna eat you alive. You sure you want those passwords? You're gonna want to start running right now, and don't stop until you hit the Eastern Shore.

(Taking her advice, the REPRESENTATIVES depart, keeping their hands over their mouths.)

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

I don't understand what Axios is! Mike Allen, where did you go? Dammit! (Exits.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

You two that was just mean.

FOREST RANGER TWO

I don't know. I kind of like their style.

OBERON

(grinning) I know, right?! Look, we are the demi-gods of these woods. When mortals come here, they tread on hallowed ground!

(REPORTERS ONE, TWO, THREE and FOUR start to enter.)

PUCK

My lord's hyperbole aside, all we ask is that those who come here treat the place with the respect and appreciation that it deserves.

REPORTER ONE

This place stinks!

PUCK

To be fair, I totally set myself up for that one.

FOREST RANGER ONE

No! Wait! Please! Remember what we just learned about listening? Just...hold off and hear what they have to say.

OBERON

Very well. Who are they?

FOREST RANGER TWO

I don't know thanks to your little Shakespearean Costume whammy, everybody looks like they just stumbled in from the Renaissance fair!

REPORTER TWO

(consulting smart phone) Can you get a signal? I can't get a signal!

REPORTER THREE

(same) No I can't get a signal! If I could get a signal, I'd be typing does it look like I'm typing?! Why can't we get a signal?

REPORTER FOUR

If the heat is any indication, I'm thinking sun-spot activity.

REPORTER ONE

Either that or all the cell towers melted. Stupid lying cell phone carrier!

REPORTER TWO

(dropping character for a second) You're not going to start insulting Verizon, are you? Because I'm pretty sure they can hear everything from across the street.

REPORTER ONE

No, of course not, I'm not crazy.

REPORTER TWO

Good. Smart. (Back into character) But this is serious! If we can't get a signal, we can't post!

REPORTER THREE

If my clicks go down, so does my career! My screen has gone blank, and, as we all know, Democracy Dies in Darkness!

REPORTER FOUR

You think that's bad? If I don't tweet, I don't eat. I've got half-a-million Twitter followers who are depending on me to distract them from their day jobs! If they have to go without my dazzling insight (REPORTER ONE snorts at this)--shut up for too long, they start to realize that I'm neither dazzling nor insightful! (REPORTER ONE snorts again.) All right, that's it (Starts to go for REPORTER ONE.)

REPORTER TWO

(interposing) Stop it, you two we can't turn on each other like this! Remember, we're the ones on the front lines of the day's events the infantry of the war on ignorance

*From this day to the ending of the world,
We all in it shall be remember'd;*

REPORTER ONE

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers

REPORTER TWO

*For he today that tweets his thoughts with me
Shall be my brother (referring to REPORTER ONE), be he ne'er so vile.*

FOREST RANGER TWO

I'm thinking they're journalists.

PUCK

Wow. Way to read minds, Professor X.

REPORTER THREE

We are but warriors for the working-day;

REPORTER FOUR

*Our suits and notepads are all besmirch'd
From marching in the painful field;*

FOREST RANGER ONE

(greeting the REPORTERS) Are you guys lost?

REPORTER ONE

Thank God! Human beings!

OBERON

Like hell we are--Bite your tongue!

REPORTER TWO

We're looking for some way out of this wood.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Yeah, there seems to be a lot of that going around today.

REPORTER THREE

We're headed away from D.C. Far, far away.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Ah, so you're fleeing the heat?

REPORTER FOUR

No, the cold.

FOREST RANGER ONE

I'm sorry--the cold?

REPORTER FOUR

The cold.

PUCK

(referring to REPORTERS; loud whisper to OBERON) I think this is the fake news everyone is talking about.

REPORTER ONE

No. Look, we're journalists

OBERON

That's been established. No more self-referencing!

REPORTER TWO

Anyway we work the D.C. beat which means that nine months out of the year, we've got the biggest and most important stories in the country but when summer hits D.C., the place empties out, the boldface names stop showing up at Café Milano, and everything grinds to a halt. We call it 'the big chill.'

REPORTER THREE

The point is, there's nothing for us to cover all the movers-and-shakers head off to wherever the Obamas are vacationing. So unless you can get me a first look at how Jeff Bezos is renovating his house

OBERON

Please. I'm a demigod, and even I can't get an audience with Bezos.

REPORTER FOUR

Then there's nothing for us to report on in D.C. for the next three months.

FOREST RANGER ONE

So, then, where are you three headed?

REPORTER TWO

The only place there's any news to be had that anyone wants to hear about. We go...(dramatic pause)...to Hollywood!

FOREST RANGER TWO

That is a disappointing answer on so many levels.

REPORTER THREE

Tell us about it! You try spending three months writing nothing but "who wore it best, flip flop edition." The only flip flops I'm interested in covering are John Kerry's.

REPORTER FOUR

But we have to go there. Hollywood is the only place where anything's happening during the summer. It's blockbuster season, and we can find work doing press junkets. We can only hope to run into Amal Clooney and get some real news.

REPORTER ONE

We're off to sit in dressing rooms and lap up whatever lunacy the celebs are babbling about. For three months. (pause) Three. Months. It'll be like having to sit through *The Revenant* all over again.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Why not do something else how about covering local politics?

REPORTER TWO

The only local politics in D.C. are stories about mass transit failures and bribery scandals and after a while, that just gets too dry.

REPORTER FOUR

Look, our employers need national content to drive readership! HuffPo would collapse in mid-August if it wasn't for celebrity news! That and whatever Michael Moore is yelling about seriously, doesn't that guy have an indoor voice?

FOREST RANGER TWO

Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows.

So, you're all, like, dying inside, huh?

ALL REPORTERS

So, SO MUCH.

REPORTER THREE

You think we don't want to write about real stuff? Of course we do

REPORTER ONE

We didn't get into journalism because we wanted to chase after puff

REPORTER TWO

We wanted to make a difference! Reveal the hidden truth! Be there when Chuck Schumer's glasses finally fall off!

REPORTER THREE

When we were young, we told ourselves:
*Let fame, that all hunt after in their lives,
Live register'd upon our brazen tombs
And then grace us in the disgrace of death;*

REPORTER FOUR

*When, spite of cormorant devouring Time,
The endeavor of this present breath may buy
That honour which shall bate his scythe's keen edge
And make us heirs of all eternity.*

REPORTER ONE

*The grosser manner of these world's delights
We throw upon the gross world's baser slaves:*

REPORTERTWO

*To love, to wealth, to pomp, we pine and die;
With all these living in pursuit of truth.*

FOREST RANGER TWO

Wow. Noble sentiment.

PUCK

(to OBERON) You catch the reference?

OBERON

Love's Labour's Lost. Opening lines.

PUCK

Wow. Another deep cut D.C. really loves its Shakespeare.

OBERON

Your plight is sad, but your resolve to flee to this place called Hollywood is misguided.

PUCK

Weird, but every time somebody mentions that place I taste kale smoothies.

OBERON

You must return to the District of Columbia

REPORTER ONE

But there's no news!

REPORTER THREE

And the heat! Dear Lord, the heat!

OBERON

Yes, yes, the heat. Your minds are like Metro on a single track. You will return to the District of Columbia, but I will grant you this boon we have been sending back the legislators of Washington, so they too will be there with you

REPORTER FOUR

A politician in D.C. over the summer! Impossible!

OBERON

Yet it will be so and more! I solemnly pledge that through my magic I shall create a news story that shall set this city abuzz.

REPORTER TWO

Oh, boy! Is the Purple line actually happening?

REPORTER THREE

Did Dan Snyder finally change the name of the Washington Redski...

REPORTER FOUR

Don't say it.

OBERON

Return to D.C. and you'll find Dusty Baker saying Bryce Harper is overrated and should be traded to the Orioles!

REPORTER ONE

(ducking out of this uncomfortably moment) Uh quick! We've got to get back and get the Internet Outrage Machine primed and ready to go!

REPORTER FOUR

Back to the city!

REPORTER TWO

Indeed. (slight pause) But dear Lord, the heat...

(The REPORTERS exit.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

Another crisis averted without transmogrification! Go team!

FOREST RANGER TWO

Aw, you've been using that Word-Of-The-Day calendar I re-gifted to you.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Affirmative, that gift engendered great felicity in me.

OBERON

Indeed. You mortals are proving of use. I may want to keep you on as part of my kingly court. Of course, we'll have to wait for my wife the fairy Queen, Telania, I mean, Titania--to approve any new hires. Come to think of it, where *is* Titania?

PUCK

I don't know. (heavily insinuating) It's strange that such a noted and important figure from *Midsommer* wouldn't make an appearance. (Leaning towards the audience) Foreshadowing!

OBERON

(joining PUCK) Magic of theater!

(BUREAUCRATS ONE, TWO THREE and FOUR enter. They're slow, but cheerful like human sloths.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

If you two are done destroying the last shards of the fourth wall we have some new visitors approaching.

FOREST RANGER

And approaching...and approaching...very slowly.

OBERON

Curse these constant intrusions! Who are these strange creatures?

FOREST RANGER ONE

(examining them) Hmm. I'm calling them as bureaucrats.

PUCK

But they're dressed the same as everyone else how can you tell?

FOREST RANGER ONE

(as close to an impersonation of Benedict Cumberbatch as possible.) Something flat behind the eyes. Scarred fingers suggesting multiple paper cuts. Pasty skin suggests lack of sunlight.

FOREST RANGER TWO

The smell of recycled air suggesting years spent inside government buildings. Heavy breathing indicates that they've sighed impatiently far more than normal.

PUCK

You've memorized, like, every single episode of Sherlock, haven't you?

FOREST RANGER TWO

Hey, what else are we supposed to do when the park is slow?

FOREST RANGER ONE

Also, they have a lanyard and a badge. Why doesn't anyone take those off?

OBERON

Speak who are you?

BUREAUCRAT ONE

We're bureaucrats.

FOREST RANGER ONE

I knew it! (Rangers high-five) Nobody? Really? not cool, fairies.

OBERON

We have seen many strange things since coming to these woods, yet you three surpass all we have met so far. Tell me, why do you look so sad?

FOREST RANGER TWO

They're always gloomy they're bureaucrats.

BUREAUCRAT TWO

That's actually a common misconception! We love our work! The quiet, the filing, the stapling ahhh, the stapling.

BUREAUCRAT THREE

We're the unsung heroes of the D.C. ecosystem. If we do our jobs well, no one notices, but if we didn't- complete chaos would ensue!

BUREAUCRAT FOUR

Paper comes to the inbox. We read, we review, we stamp. Paper goes to the outbox. It's the circle of life. Like the Bard wrote:

All the world's an office,

And all the men and women merely workers:

BUREAUCRAT ONE

They have their exits and their entrances;

And one drone in his time plays many parts,

His acts being seven ages

BUREAUCRAT TWO

Well, except in the civil service, it's really just three ages First comes the Junior Filer, next the Senior Filer, then the Managing Filer.

BUREAUCRAT THREE

Then comes the last scene of all, the pension!!

ALL BUREAUCRATS

Yay, PENSION!

FOREST RANGER ONE

And are you, too, fleeing the heat?

FOREST RANGER TWO

(snarkily) Oh, is it hot in D.C.? Someone should really say something about that.

BUREAUCRAT FOUR

Oh, no the seasons mean nothing to us. We work in a government building. The temperature is always the same.

Our sun is a fluorescent light bulb.

OBERON

So then I take it you are simply fleeing your work?

BUREAUCRAT ONE

No, no, we told you--we love our jobs.

OBERON

Yes, but I assumed you were being sarcastic.

BUREAUCRAT TWO

(Deadpan) I don't follow.

BUREAUCRAT THREE

We're the eyes on the permits, the signature on the licenses.

BUREAUCRAT FOUR

We keep the records. Bureaucrats write the first draft of history.

FOREST RANGER TWO

I thought that was journalists.

BUREAUCRAT ONE

(scornful) Please. Where would they be without our documents?

BUREAUCRAT TWO

Civil service is the noblest calling--and we get to do it every day! *Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow!* Then the pension!

BUREAUCRAT THREE

Plus, we get to fill out forms! Every day! Ah, the forms. (All three bureaucrats sigh happily: “Ahhh, the forms...”)

BUREAUCRAT FOUR

The only thing that’s better than the forms are the forms in triplicate! (They sigh even MORE happily: “Ahhhh, triplicate...”)

BUREAUCRAT ONE

You know, one time, I saw a form that had eight forms underneath!

BUREAUCRAT TWO

I thought that was just a myth! Like Bernie actually being a Democrat.

BUREAUCRAT THREE

But it doesn’t matter. Summer is here, and we can’t enjoy anything anymore.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Why?

BUREAUCRAT FOUR

*I will tell you why; so shall my anticipation
prevent your discovery. I have of late--but
wherefore I know not--lost all my mirth, forgone all
custom of exercises.*

BUREAUCRAT TWO

*This goodly frame, the
earth, seems to me a sterile promontory, this most
excellent canopy, the air, look you, this brave
o'erhanging firmament, this majestical roof fretted
with golden fire, why, it appears no other thing to
me than a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours.*

BUREAUCRAT THREE

*Man delights not me: no, nor woman neither,
though by your smiling you seem to say so.*

OBERON

Wow. A bureaucrat reciting *Hamlet*. That might be the definition of sad.

FOREST RANGER ONE

But if you're not running from the heat, then what's got you out here?

BUREAUCRAT ONE

The summer brings with it a plague on D.C. far worse than any heat.

BUREAUCRAT TWO

They stand on both sides of the escalator.

BUREAUCRAT THREE

They block the entrance to our building taking selfies because they think it's the Air and Space Museum.

BUREAUCRATFOUR

They attract ice cream trucks which block our parking.

FOREST RANGER TWO

(getting it) Ahhhhh.

OBERON

What? What??

FOREST RANGER TWO

The worst thing to hit D.C. every year isn't the heat it's the tourists!

(The BUREAUCRATS recoil at the word "tourists.")

BUREAUCRAT ONE

Ugh! Do not speak of them! Every summer, they come. In groups and busloads and families that have screaming fights right in front of you!

BUREAUCRAT TWO

So many of them so loud so pushy so many socks in so many sandals.

OBERON

Enough I shall pronounce my sentence Bureaucrats, I sentence you three to

BUREAUCRAT THREE

Hold that thought. (Sniffs the air) Do you smell that?

BUREAUCRAT FOUR

(Sniffs) Oh, God. Sunscreen. I smell sunscreen!

BUREAUCRAT ONE

(cocks an ear) And I just heard the zipper on a fanny pack!

BUREAUCRAT TWO

Dear Lord, they've followed us! Run! For the love, run!

OBERON

But I have yet to pronounce sentence!

BUREAUCRAT THREE

Buddy, nothing you could threaten us with is worse than what's about to come through these woods we are gone!

(And the FOUR BUREAUCRATS exit.)

PUCK

Wow, they disappeared faster than the Capitals in a game seven. Are these tourists really that bad?

FOREST RANGER TWO

Unless you like having people quack at you from a duckboat, then yeah, kinda.

OBERON

They sound most rude, these tourists.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Well, to be fair, the economy of D.C. does sorta depend on the revenue they bring in, but man, that doesn't help when a bunch of middle schoolers stop in you in the street to ask if the Washington Monument really retracts into the ground at night.

OBERON

Fascinating. I confess, I long to see such creatures.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Well, it's summer and it's D.C. you will get your wish.

Cry "havoc!" and let slip the dogs of war

(TOURIST HUSBAND ONE, TOURIST WIFE ONE, TOURIST HUSBAND TWO, and TOURIST WIFE TWO enter. They are frighteningly wholesome. Trailing behind them are TEEN ONE and TEEN TWO, bored and unhappy.)

PUCK

Wow it seems like this whole night, whenever we talk about someone, they appear right away. (Beat, then looks up and says loudly) Jumbo Slice! (OBERON and FOREST RANGERS give him a look) What? I'm hungry!

TOURIST WIFE ONE

Honey! Do we know where we are?

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

For the last time, yes! This is the Jefferson Memorial...kind of underwhelming if you ask me.

TEEN ONE

(mumbling, sullen) Ugh Dad, you're such a dork.

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

If I'm such a dork then why am I wearing this cool Hawaiian shirt?

TOURIST WIFE TWO

Oh, let's all take a selfie.

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

We can post it to instant gram!

TEEN TWO

Nobody wants to see that.

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

Oh really? My last photo got two whole likes. Your mother, and Uncle Jim.

TOURIST WIFE TWO

Your father is breaking the internet!

TOURIST WIFE ONE

Did anybody remember to bring the map?

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

We don't need a map. I have an excellent sense of direction. See over there, that's the Washington Monument. Lucky it hasn't retracted into the ground yet!

TEEN ONE

I want to hit every one of you with a tree branch.

TOURIST WIFE TWO

What was that?

TEEN ONE

Nothing.

(The TOURISTS suddenly notice OBERON, PUCK, and the FOREST RANGER.)

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

Hey, guys, check this out it's a two Forest Rangers and I'm just guessing here some kind of Shakespeare in the park, are you actors? Is this performance free?

OBERON

ACTORS?!?!!

TOURIST WIFE TWO
Oh, they're in character.

OBERON
I am Oberon, King of the Fairies, Prince of the Forest

PUCK
Boss, no! By the time we get out of here, nobody'll be able to catch a cab!

FOREST RANGER ONE
(to OBERON) Just play along.

FOREST RANGER TWO
Yeah, the last thing you want to do is try to convince a tourist that they're wrong.

OBERON
Fine, fine, so long as they don't (All FOUR TOURISTS take out their phones and start taking photos) And there we go. OK, I'm gonna thunderbolt them.

FOREST RANGER ONE
(trying to distract the TOURISTS away from OBERON) So, you folks just visiting the District?

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE
Yep, sure are! All the way from Minnesota!

FOREST RANGER TWO
And are these your kids?

TEEN ONE/TWO
Unfortunately.

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

Maybe you can talk some sense into them here we go and bring them all the way to our nation's capital, and they can't seem to get excited about anything around here!

FOREST RANGER ONE

Well, I could try...Um, hey, there, kids! (trying to bond, not succeeding) Pretty lame having to hang with the 'rents, huh, kids? (The TEENS stare at her, blankly.) Um, so...nature is pretty *on fleek*, though, huh? (More blank stares.) You baes like...Snapchat? Ever seen the filter with the um...puppy ears?

PUCK

Oh, the humanity...

FOREST RANGER ONE

So, how about the Patuxent Reserve? Pristine nature I'd say that's...trending.

FOREST RANGER TWO

This is the Beyonce-themed orientation video all over again...I can never listen to Lemonade without hearing "Okay trainees now let's get park information." (to the tune of Formation)

FOREST RANGER ONE

(to the tune of Hold Up) Hold up, don't you litter in my park, please.

TEEN ONE

Truly, ranger, in respect of itself, it is a good reserve, but in respect that it hath no wi-fi, it is naught.

TEEN TWO

In respect that it is solitary, I like it very well; but in respect that my parents are here, it is a very vile reserve.

TEEN ONE

*Now, in respect it
is in the fields, it pleaseth me well; but in
respect that vaping's not allowed, it is tedious.*

TEEN TWO

*As is it a shaded spot, look you, it fits my humour well;
but as there is no cell coverage in it, it goes much
against my stomach.*

FOREST RANGER ONE

Wow, so, like, literally everybody in the world knows more Shakespeare than us.

FOREST RANGER TWO

To be or not to be embarrassed...

TEEN ONE

Mom, Dad, I'm gonna go wander off, throw some rocks at stuff, see what happens.

TEEN TWO

I'm gonna follow him around and post what he does on Facebook Live.

TOURIST WIFE ONE

I don't know what that means. Have fun you two!

(The TEENS exit.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

So since you all are here, I'll be happy to take any questions about the Reserve.

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

Are we on the National Mall right now?

FOREST RANGER TWO

Well, actually...

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

I don't think so. I don't see a Macy's here!

(The TOURISTS laugh uproariously.)

FOREST RANGER TWO

Hilarious. Don't hear that one often.

TOURIST WIFE TWO

I always said you should do standup!

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

And I say I can't...because I love my recliner too much!

(The TOURISTS laugh uproariously. Again.)

TOURIST WIFE ONE

So what's the story behind this place?

FOREST RANGER ONE

Oh, well (to OBERON and PUCK) sorry, you guys, but it's kinda my job. (Deep breath, and) Covering nearly 13,000 acres of pristine wilderness, the Patuxent Research Reserve is the only National Nature reserve in the United States to support--

OBERON

No, no, no! Enough! No more banal questions and selfies! I think I know how to handle this one. I'm gonna *Midsummer* these dweebs.

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

Dweebs? Does the Hawaiian shirt *not* look good?

TOURIST WIFE ONE

That's just how people talk in the big city. *Fuggedaboudit!*

PUCK

Oh my God, end this!

OBERON

Indeed. (Magic gesture the FOUR TOURISTS freeze.) Now, I shall do as we did in the incomparable play by Shakespeare. I shall make both men fall in love with

this woman (referring to TOURIST WIFE ONE), and thus drive them all to madness! (Another magic gesture, steps back.) And away we go!

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

(looking at TOURIST WIFE ONE) Hey, there, I gotta say, you are rocking that outfit!

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

What are you doing? That's my wife!

TOURIST WIFE TWO

Yes, dear, what ARE you doing? I'm standing right here!

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

Please like that's any reason not to tell her I'm in love with you!

TOURIST WIFE ONE

What?

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

WHAT?!

TOURIST WIFE TWO

Again: Standing right here!

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

(to TOURIST WIFE TWO, contemptuously)

Ay, by my life;

I never did desire to see thee more.

Be certain, nothing truer; 'tis no jest

That I do hate thee and love her.

TOURIST WIFE TWO

(furiously at TOURIST WIFE ONE) *O me!*

You thief of love! what, have you come by night

And stolen my love's heart from him?

TOURIST WIFE ONE

*Let her not strike me. You perhaps may think,
Because she is something lower than myself,
That I can match her.*

TOURIST WIFE TWO

*Now I perceive that she hath made compare
Between our statures; And are you grown so high in his esteem;
Because I am so dwarfish and so low?*

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

Be not afraid; she shall not harm thee.

TOURIST HUBAND TWO

No, sir, she shall not, though you take her part.

TOURIST WIFE ONE

*O, when she's angry, she is keen and shrewd!
And though she be but little, she is fierce.*

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

*Now follow, if thou darest, to try whose right,
Of thine or mine, is most in her*

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

Follow! nay, I'll go with thee, cheek by jowl.

(TOURIST HUSBAND ONE and TOURIST HUSBAND TWO go off, clearly about to fight.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Wait, so are you gonna let those four just run off and whale on each other?

OBERON

(considers for a second) Yes.

FOREST RANGER TWO

This is the best day since a Ben's Chili Bowl opened up right across the street from me.

(TITANIA and ARIEL enter.)

OBERON

And here she is my partner my love let all give welcome to Titania, Queen of the Fairies, First Lady of the Forest.. (Fanfare, if possible.)

TITANIA

(cheerful, casual, to OBERON, with a peck on the cheek) Hi, honey. Tough day at the office?

OBERON

Eh, same old, same old. Mortals, you know?

TITANIA

Oh, I know don't get me started!

OBERON

What about you? Good day?

TITANIA

Not bad little shopping in City Center mani/pedi in Georgetown lunch at Le Dip...

FOREST RANGER TWO

(to PUCK) They seem awfully casual for a couple of demigods!

TITANIA

Then I ran into this one just outside the forest she says her name is Ariel.

ARIEL

Indeed it is, and indeed I am. Airy servant to my master, the sorcerer Prospero, I come to tell you all--

TITANIA

(butting in) But before we get to that I passed a little theatre in Penn Quarter, they are doing a play called “The School for Lies”. It looks most delightful and funny.

ARIEL

Delightful as these frolics are, sire, I come to share important news and hopefully an ending to the play.

PUCK

About time (Refers to onstage cast members)--everyone back there is getting fidgety.

OBERON

Tell us, then, this news whence comes it? Where have you been?

TITANIA

(before ARIEL can speak) *Up and down, up and down,
I have wandered up and down:
Through the field and through the town:
I have wandered up and down.*

PUCK

Everybody keeps stealing my lines!

OBERON

(to Titania:) And? Why so?

TITANIA

Because I knew that you would want to spend the summer here in these woods, and I just couldn’t face that prospect. The heat dear Lord, the heat!

ARIEL

Indeed. I am pure spirit, and I’m sweating I don’t have glands or pores this shouldn’t be!

TITANIA

Exactly, so, I was looking for someplace anyplace else to hang out for the season, and then I met this spirit.

ARIEL

I was coming in search of you both.

OBERON

And what does Ariel want with us?

ARIEL

(grandly) I come here from a magical isle, where my master Prospero invites you to spend the season with him.

OBERON

Oh and what is this isle? Atlantis? Avalon?

ARIEL

No. Martha's Vineyard you've never been?

OBERON

No, but I hear good things! Tell me more.

PUCK

Ooo! I hear Chelsea Handler has a place! Why she hasn't interviewed me yet, I do not know.

ARIEL:

*Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises,
Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not.
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments
Will hum about mine ears, and sometime voices
That, if I then had waked after long sleep,
Will make me sleep again: and then, in dreaming,
The clouds methought would open and show riches
Ready to drop upon me that, when I waked,
I cried to dream again.*

OBERON

In that case, let us leave this fiery, dreadful swamp behind

FOREST RANGER ONE

Hey!

OBERON

Stop fooling yourself, between the heat and the tourists, the last time I was in a place like this, Dante was writing an epic about it.

FOREST RANGER ONE

No! No! I am not taking this anymore! (defiantly) You come here, and you make a mess, and you complain, and you know what? I just realized something! You you're the tourists! (OBERON and TITANIA are shocked.) Well, this is my home. (Big, defiantly, she does her spiel--) Covering nearly 13,000 acres of pristine wilderness, the Patuxent Research Reserve is the only National Nature reserve in the United States to support wildlife research. The Reserve was founded in 1936 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, it has since become a leading international research institute for wildlife and applied environmental research, and for providing technical assistance in implementing research findings so as to improve natural resource management.

(Pause. She's a little out of breath. Everyone is impressed.)

PUCK

(finally) Well, damn.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Wow...hearing you talk about the park like that...Okay, can I just, say something crazy?

FOREST RANGER ONE

I love crazy!

FOREST RANGER TWO

Even though we've worked together a long time,
The course of true love never did run smooth

(singing 'Ten Minutes Ago' from Cinderella) Ten minutes ago, I saw you. I looked up when you came through the door. My head started reeling you gave me the feeling the room had no ceiling or floor. Ten minutes ago, I met you, and we murmured our how do you dos I wanted to ring out the bells and fling out my arms and sing out the news. (singing 'Love Is An Open Door') I've been searching my whole life to find my own place and maybe it's the forest talking or these quirky two. But with you. I found my place...And it's nothing like I've ever known before! Love is an open door!

EVERYONE: LOVE IS AN OPEN DOOOOOOOOOR!

OBERON

(gathers his composure -- to FOREST RANGER ONE) You have spoken fair and true. We long not to be tourists...and you all clearly need some alone time. Besides, we lack sun-visors and neon tee shirts. Therefore, my queen and I shall depart for the fair Vineyard of Martha.

TITANIA

Red pants and pink wine, here we come! Rose ALL DAY!

OBERON

But before we leave, we give to you our blessing, and our thanks may you stand as guardian of this place for many years to come.

*Now, until the break of day,
Through this house each fairy stray.
To the best bride-bed will we,
Which by us shall blessed be;
And the issue there create
Ever shall be fortunate.
With this field-dew consecrate,
Every fairy take his gait;
And each several chamber bless,
Through this palace, with sweet peace;
And the owner of it blest
Ever shall in safety rest.*

FOREST RANGER ONE

Thank you.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Seems a little anti-climactic, given what we just went through.

OBERON

*If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended*

PUCK

STOP STEALING MY LINES!

FOREST RANGER ONE

(yawning, as if waking up) Oh. Hey. Sorry, must have nodded off.

O wonder!

How many goodly creatures are there here!

How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world

That has such people in't!

FOREST RANGER TWO

The heat, you know?

FOREST RANGER ONE

(back into tour guide mode, leading OBERON and TITANIA off) Well, since you're here, let me tell you guys about the Patuxent Research Reserve

OBERON

We can't wait to hear it.

(FOREST RANGERS, OBERON and TITANIA exit. PUCK and ARIEL linger for a second.)

PUCK

Well, that was complicated and silly. (Grins) Which means it was my kind of evening. (Puts arms around ARIEL)

ARIEL

Oh wow, then I have some stories for you! Let's ditch this place.

PUCK

(looks around) Just think of it. Three months of this heat, and some people live here voluntarily.

ARIEL

Voluntarily?

PUCK

Lord, what fools these mortals be!

OK, cue the closing chorus!

(PUCK and ARIEL exit. EPILOGUE CHORUS enters)

EPILOGUE CHORUS ONE

"Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines"
That much the Bard of Avon's pen makes clear--
But think of all the gripes and groans and whines
He'd have to write about if he were here.

EPILOGUE CHORUS TWO

For summer in this town is mighty cruel
So bad it makes you miss the winter snows--
And since our kids have been let out of school
We're doubly pained, as every parent knows.

EPILOGUE CHORUS THREE

Small wonder, then the Fairy Queen and King
Depart Patuxent for a gentler clime--
On Vineyard Isle they'll have a summer fling
And then move on before the autumn-time.

EPILOGUE CHORUS FOUR

In flight, they leave the Ranger, safe and free
To carry on her work through summer's heat

So too do we depart your company
And send you off into the swelt'ring street.

EPILOGUE CHORUS FIVE

But first, before we go, we'll take a bow
And give our thanks to those who risked their necks
Performing in this show--we thank them now
And also thanks to those who wrote us checks.

EPILOGUE CHORUS SIX

The cause of Shakespeare brings us here tonight
The faith that folks are bettered by the Bard--
So let us know, by clapping, that we're right
Or please, at least don't boo us all too hard!

EPILOGUE CHORUS SEVEN

Outside this hall, the summer months await
And with their heat our miseries are fed
Yet what sustains us through this fiery fate?
The faith and hope for cooler months ahead.
So good night all, and thank you once, and twice--
For giving to our cause to show you care--
And as you leave, one last word of advice--
Drink lots of water, 'cause it's hot out there!

(PUCK returns mischievously)

PUCK

(to audience.)

*If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended
That you have but slumbered here
While these visions did appear.
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a dream,
Gentles, do not reprehend.
If you pardon, we will mend.*

*And, as I am an honest Puck,
If we have unearnèd luck
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,
We will make amends ere long.
Else the Puck a liar call.
So good night unto you all.
Give me your hands if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.*