



# Bears Ears National Monument

## Monument Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

---

**Friday, October 16, 2020 8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Meeting format: Zoom**

**In Attendance:**

*Monument Advisory Committee Members:* Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official), Ryan Benally (Vice Chair/Tribal Interest), Jared Berrett (Developed Recreation), Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing), Lee Bennett (Archaeology), Jamie Bayles (Public at Large), Danny “Scoot” Flannery (Dispersed Recreation), Dustin Randall (Developed Recreation), Alfred Ben (Tribal Concerns).

*BLM/USFS:* Ryan Nehl (USFS Forest Supervisor), Jake Palma (BLM Bears Ears National Monument Manager), Don Irwin (USFS Archaeologist), Lynn McAloon (BLM District Public Affairs Specialist), Dave Dahle (BLM Ethics Counselor), Jared Lundell (BLM Archaeologist), Misti Haines (BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner), Ted Neff (USFS Deputy District Ranger and Line-officer for managing BENM Forest Service lands): Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official), Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner and Wilderness Specialist), Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager), Jason Byrd (BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner), Greg Sheehan (BLM Utah State Director), Rachel Wootton (BLM Utah Public Affairs Specialist), and other supporting staff.

*Public/Media:* There were about 40 other attendees including members of the public, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and media attendees including Fox 13 News, The Spectrum/USA Today, Keshlear Communications, and KUER Public Radio.

**8:00 am – Online Meeting Logistics – Lynn McAloon (BLM Public Affairs Specialist)**

Thank you all for being here today. Lynn McAloon (BLM District Public Affairs Specialist) and Rachel Wootton (BLM Utah Public Affairs Specialist) went over Zoom technical tips for MAC members, presenters, and attendees, including how to raise your hand, when to have your video on, muting, audio options for presenters, call-in listeners, various tabs, etc. Panelists will see different options than the attendees.

**8:15 am – Welcome – Bruce Adams (MAC Chairperson), Gary Torres (BLM Canyon Country District Manager/Designated Federal Official), and Ryan Nehl (Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor)**

**Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official):** Welcome, thank you for taking time to be here. Gary gave brief intro and purpose to the meeting that this was a listening session and an opportunity for conversation about Bears Ears National Monument management.

**Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official):** Frustrated with the process of replacing those people whose terms expired. There are many who were on the committee who have reapplied. BLM employees have been great to work with. Welcome back to Utah, Greg Sheehan.

**Greg Sheehan (BLM Utah State Director):** Greg shared appreciation for the MAC members and shared a little of his background. Thank you to the committee members who are on the Committee. He recognized the rich cultural history and importance of the Bears Ears region and that there are new challenges brought by coronavirus for public lands with increased visitation and pressure on resources and facilities.

**Ryan Nehl (USFS Forest Supervisor):** Ryan introduced new Moab/Monticello District Ranger and Deputy District Ranger. Forest Service, during the last few months, has seen unprecedented visitation which creates some resource concerns, potential waste, and resource damage. This MAC can help inform the agencies on some of our decision making around recreation.

MAC members introduced themselves. Bruce Adams, Ryan Benally, Lee Bennett, Gail Johnson, Jami Bayles, Scoot Flannery, and Dustin Randal.

#### **MAC Nominations and Quorum Discussion**

- There were only 8 members of the MAC on the call, but for a full quorum, 9 are needed to make formal recommendations to the agencies
- At last meeting, the MAC recommended that we use people whose terms have expired in an acting capacity. This idea was presented through the Department and the result was that it is not possible.
- Immediately after the last MAC meeting, the agencies started the process to get the positions filled that expired April 11, 2020. And locally, we have done everything we can to get those seats filled.
- Even though there is not a quorum, we will capture all discussion and present ideas at next MAC meeting for a formal vote when there is a quorum.

**Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing):** I am concerned that we might only have five members on the MAC committee next Spring if the five members we just lost aren't replaced before we lose another five members in April 2021.

**Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official):** The process to fill those seats in April 2021 has already been started. We may want to plan our next meeting before April so there is still a possibility to have a quorum intact.

**Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official):** A few of the members are asking if there are only ten members of the committee why can't six make a quorum?

**Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager):** The rules which regulate the quorum are in the Charter. We have periodic opportunities to review the Charter and this is something we can consider the next time that comes around. The Charter is published in the Federal Register and it takes a while to go through that process, but the quorum rules is something we can look at, at that time, outside of this meeting.

### **8:30 am – Agenda Review – Jake Palma (BLM Monument Manager)**

[See Attachment A]

Jake gave a brief overview of the agenda and outlined the goals and objectives for the meeting. Goals: virtual field tours, provide MAC the background on planning (e.g., travel management, camping), allow MAC discussion and recommendations, public comments. Potential MAC discussions: locations and amenities for developed camping, locations and amenities for Focal Areas, strategies for managing dispersed camping, and appropriate development at backcountry sites.

### **8:45 am – Ethics Training - Dave Dahle (BLM Assistant Ethics Counselor)**

[See Attachment B]

The ethics training provided background on obligations for when we are engaged in activities that involve the federal government. There is a statute that creates Federal Advisory Committees. You are meeting under that authority, and then under your Charter based on the appointments you have received under the Secretary. Dave Dahle put his contact info on the screen. He went over who can make up an Advisory Committee, what they do, and how they can comply. The ethics program tries to help us be free of conflicts of interests. Federal employee ethics rules do not apply to representatives because you are not a federal government employee, you represent your interests. But we still need to understand where the potential for a conflict of interest might arise. We have an obligation under 43 C.F.R Subpart 1784 to provide guidance on what your ethics obligations are. Chapter 13 of the BENM MAC Charter identifies the ethics responsibilities of its members. No member will participate in deliberations or votes relating to a matter in which the member has a direct financial interest. Dave Dahle explained what a direct financial interest is. You are required to disclose any direct or indirect interest to the Designated Federal Official (Gary Torres). If you are unsure of your position on direct financial interests please refer to Gary, you may have to recuse yourself from participating in that action. Do not let an ethical concern, or even the appearance of one, derail the good work you are doing.

## 9:15 am – Review of February 2020 MAC Meeting Minutes – Jake Palma (BLM Monument Manager)

February 2020 meeting minutes have been reviewed and approved. They are on the BENM MAC Committee website for the public to view. They have been sent to the MAC members. They were asked if they had any comments or questions about them. No questions or comments came in.

[See Attachment C]

New key staff members were introduced: Greg Sheehan – BLM Utah State Director, Gary Torres – Canyon Country District Manager, Tina Marian – NEPA and Project Manager, Shirley Cloud Lane – Native American Coordinator, Gordy Slaugh – Indian Creek Park Ranger, Lynn McAloon – Canyon Country District Public Affairs.

### BENM Update

- The pandemic hit shortly after our last MAC meeting and we were hit with some challenges. Our hearts go out to the communities that were impacted by the pandemic. Our staff is teleworking, but a lot of field work is still happening. Our ranger stations are closed to the public, but all our services remain available to the public. Phone numbers are posted on doors and all services and permits can be done on the phone or online. Our staff have remained available to the public.
- We have seen a little bit of a decrease in visitation. Our heaviest visitation happens in the spring and that was at the height of the pandemic when state orders limited where people could visit. Late summer and fall visitation is picking up and we do not have a good way to track all the campers. Park rangers are saying we see a lot of dispersed campers, which are not always reflected well in the visitation numbers because of their locations.
- We are offering free wood permits to help the communities hit especially hard during the pandemic. Four free cords per household through December 31, 2020. Please drive on designated roads to protect the resources. All stipulations apply.
- Visitor surveys in Indian Creek are starting next week to gather visitor use data to help us better plan for visitor use in the area.

### February 2020 MAC Meeting Recommendations Review and Response

1. MAC member nomination process should be sped up.
  - We are looking into more details on that.
2. Doll House site educational materials and signs.
  - Signs are being developed for cultural sites. USFS will give more details later today.
3. Shay Canyon parking and signs.
  - BLM is taking it into consideration in the upcoming Draft Environmental Assessment.
4. House on Fire parking, fencing, signs, loop trail, picnic tables, etc.
  - 30-day public comment period happened.

- Will be engaging with Tribes for input. With the ongoing pandemic it has been a little hard to engage with partners, including Tribes, but it is picking up.

**9:35 am – Discussion of Cultural Resources and Recreation Area Management Plans at USFS sites – Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Manager), Ted Neff (USFS Deputy District Ranger), and Don Irwin (USFS District Archaeologist)**

Ted Neff (USFS Deputy District Ranger): It is important for us to listen to you and get your feedback regarding BENM. The last eight months has been a challenging time with the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to express my sympathy, care, and concern for everyone. I hope you are doing well. I appreciated you being here during this challenging time.

Staff introductions: Michael Engelhart – District Ranger, Brian Murdock – Recreation and Wilderness Staff Officer, Don Irwin – Archaeologist, Charmain Thompson – Forest Heritage Program Manager.

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): USFS adjustments to management in response to pandemic include our offices being closed to the public but our staff is teleworking. We are also offering free firewood permits, which are available online. Field work continues, new park rangers were quarantined for 14 days upon entry on duty. Campgrounds have had a huge increase in use. We are doing the National Visitor Use Surveys, which happens every five years. We have a contract with Utah State University so you might see them out there stopping people as they leave the forest to administer those surveys.

[See Attachment D]

**DOLL HOUSE**

- Overview: Doll House is specifically mentioned in the proclamation. It is accessible by a very long drive on Dry Mesa and a short hike. The parking area and the trail are user created. Vehicle count is up for 2020. We are on track to see record numbers.
- Impacts: Footprints on top of the roof. Rocks on the back wall are disturbed. Increased erosion at the base of the structure on the user created trail due to flash flooding in June.
- Management Actions: Increased foot patrols, new signage, trail improvements, parking delineators, installed a traffic counter, closed the parking lot and the area around Dolls House to camping in the BENM plan.
- Potential Future Actions: Increased signage, designated trail, prohibit entrance to the alcove, require permits. The MAC will be involved in future actions.

Dustin Randall (Developed Recreation): I noticed Razor/UTV traffic has increased in the area. The parking lot is small and may have to be established a little further down the road.

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): Yes, the parking lot needs attention and will require more design work and future planning.

Jared Berrett (Developed Recreation): I would hate to see the entrance to the alcove prohibited. If you put any kind of barrier in front of the alcove it would ruin photos and change the feel of the place. Maybe a permit system that gives people accountability could work. Require permits, but do not have a fee or limit the number of people and include Visit with Respect messaging and a signed agreement to instill accountability. Like the upper San Juan River permits, and Canyonlands NP permits. It could work in these remote Bears Ears sites without having to do a lot of policing. The permit system would not be to limit access right now but more for accountability.

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): I like the idea of accountability and something that would give people some education before they go to visit it. I agree that something like fencing in the alcove would change the character and the experience of the site. But if we continue to see things like people climbing on the roof and other impacts happening maybe there is some less heavy-handed way of asking people to not go behind it or into it.

Rachel Wootton (BLM Utah Public Affairs Specialist) reminded members of the public about the public comment period and how that will work.

### **10:00-10:15am – Break**

Discussion continued...

#### **LEWIS LODGE**

- Overview: Rough 4x4 road to access the site. 1-mile hike to the overlook. Additional 0.3-mile hike on steep narrow ledge and scrambling. Access to ledge requires a climb over a masonry wall and kiva pushing you toward an exposed cliff edge. We are worried the wall will get pushed over as people pass through. Visitor use is increasing dramatically, almost 10x.
- Impacts: Collector piles are showing up, people are walking on the roofs of the structures, increased erosion around the features; up to 20 cm this season due to foot traffic. There is concern about structures deteriorating.
- Management Actions: We have a MOA with Friends of Cedar Mesa, Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants, and World Monuments Fund which allows for descendant communities and us to come together at the local level for long-term solutions at sites that fall into the Lewis Lodge category that we don't intend to turn into Public Sites but are well known and receive a lot of visitation. We will work together, along with the MAC, in a shared stewardship to protect these sites but still allow for public visitation and enjoyment of them. We are studying four archaeological sites, including Lewis Lodge and Doll House, to get up-to-date condition assessments to provide baseline data to help us notice later changes.

- Emergency Actions: Sterile fill-dirt was brought in to cover sensitive areas exposed from erosion. Close diversion trails that threaten the site. We are partnering with the Ancestral Lands Program of the Southwest Conservation Corps to carry out this work.
- Long-term Planning: Is this a candidate for a developed Public Site? Possible responses to increased visitation: prohibiting entry to the site, interp. signs at the overlook, addressing safety concerns, implementing a permit system. The MAC will be involved in future actions.

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): It is a strenuous hike, but people know about it and are going there to enjoy it whether we do something or not. We need to try to encourage those who manage it to protect it and keep it as pristine as possible.

Lee Bennett (Archaeology): You have done a good thing in reacting quickly to the situation and I appreciate what you have done with your partners. When you get to long-term planning you may want to look at the old visitation system where it is either open to anybody anytime, restricted use, or no access. You may have to prioritize law enforcement activity to match those levels of access.

MAC member: Would an extreme measure be prohibiting entrance to the site by fencing it?

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): BENM rangers are there once a week monitoring. It is rare for them to go out and not see someone there. Signage is a step we are taking. Providing interp. and signage at the overlook may give people a sense of been-there-done-that so they do not feel like they need to go to the ledge. I do not think prohibiting entrance is something we should do right off the bat, but if we continue to see 10x increase in use it might be something to consider. It is not just about protection of the site, there are public safety concerns we need to consider.

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): What is the legal liability of the government if you put signs up?

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): We do not have a lot of liability if we are not encouraging use or do not designate the trail. But if we put signs up then we get into that realm of taking on some liability. Currently, we have a sign telling people to walk around the edge of the kiva, and that is directing them toward the edge of the cliff. Ideas of closing the ledge is more about public safety than protection of the site.

Jared Berrett (Developed Recreation): Do we feel like the permit system at Moon House has been a success? I hate to close things down, but as we think about access in the future maybe it could be something like special tours, or special permits instead of completely removing it from visitation. Maybe a Bears Ears-wide general use permit that is free, non-lottery system would be best, where they have to sign off on how to visit the area, and it will help you collect visitor data. This site is a prime candidate for a permit system to help with

safety and avoid shutting it down. Mesa Verde is more of a ranger-oriented hike feel and I don't want that feel here, but this site could be accessed with a permit and video, like the Kane Gulch Ranger Station with much more oversight, and maybe tours with a company taking them.

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): We have looked into the option of requiring a guide or docent taking you in, or having someone on site making sure only a certain amount of people enter the site at one time, especially because the more people that are on the ledge the less safe it becomes.

Dustin Randall (Developed Recreation): Bike sales have gone through the roof. Bike access to the overlook area is something to consider. Something else to consider is that the longer you keep access fully open the more people will feel entitled to entry. So, doing something now, like making it a scheduled thing or going with someone that is cognizant of what they are doing may be necessary. It is only a matter of time before someone slips and falls off the cliff like at Angel's landing. As a guide and outfitter, I would not be against closing it off, just going to the overlook is fine. I think something should be done sooner rather than later.

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): Yes, it needs to be addressed now, especially with all the erosion happening. It will be hard to find the right balance. We will have to do adaptive management where we try one thing and adjust as needed.

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): We do think that permits help protect a site. It is something the BLM has used at Moon House for a long time. It is not a panacea, there are always people who are going to go without a permit. You can increase patrols, and at Moon House we have, and we have partnered with other groups to provide signs and other help, and so permits are only one tool in the toolbox.

Jake Palma (BLM, Bears Ears National Monument Manager): We don't have enough MAC members to make a quorum but we want to take your thoughts and ideas to the next MAC meeting where you may be able to vote on what we've talked about today. I want the MAC to summarize and talk through what we just went over.

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): The position that the USFS and BLM are in with these kinds of sites makes protecting visitors a great concern. You do not want somebody to get hurt. How do you protect both the visitors and the site? If you make it a developed site you do not protect your liability, but by not developing it you could be liable for damage to the site. There is not clear answer for what to do, but something must be done.

Ryan Benally (Vice Chair/Tribal Interest): I understand that the BLM and USFS has Tribal consultation. What is their position in terms of long-term planning for developing it into a Public Site?

Don Irwin (USFS Archaeologist): I spoke directly with some of the tribes about this emergency action. It did not involve long-term planning. It emphasized the light-touch we want to give to stabilize the usage but not mess with the fabric of the site. We heard back from Hopi, Navajo, and Zuni Nations that they are very interested in working with the Monument managers and the MAC to develop appropriate interpretation, help with potential stewardship, and docent type things. They want to help sort out what these sites mean to their tribe so we have a common understanding of what can be developed and where not to draw people to. Some of these places are very sacred to the Tribes. It will take more consultations with them for long-term decisions.

Ted Neff (USFS Deputy District Ranger): We were very careful with the work at Lewis Lodge, it was just interim work. We wanted to engage with all the stakeholders and partners about what to do next with these sites. We emphasize that the Zuni, Navajo, and Hopi were supportive of this work, but are also keen to engage as we move forward.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): Keep in mind that during this COVID time the Tribes have not really been "open for business" so it has been a little harder to get with them for consultation. This meeting is really the first time we are starting this conversation and we will continue with consultation and coordination with the Tribes. That is why this meeting is so important and that we engage with and hear from the MAC. Sometimes it is better to do nothing, but in this case, we have visitation almost to the point that is unacceptable, and we must do something. We will be doing more consultation and coordination with the Tribes.

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): We recently sent letters to the Tribes to initiate similar conversations in a format specific to all the Tribes. The MAC is one way we get information. Consultations with Tribes and public comment periods are other ways we get information. We will be having these conversations with the Tribes.

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): Based on what I have heard today I think the MAC feels that protecting these sites long-term and short term from visitor damage is a good way to go.

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): I like the idea of letting everyone go to the overlook, but then if people want to go beyond that point and visit the Lodge they would have to go with a permitted tour guide, or have some kind of permit.

#### TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- Bears Ears Road and South Elks Road are the two main access points to the USFS portion of the Monument.
- People are using this road to access Bears Ears Buttes, Dark Canyon, and South Elk Ridge.
- Road counters are in place. Visitation has increased more than double since last year. Some of this may be COVID related.

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): I travel the road that goes up to the Bears Ears Buttes a lot and I have seen the increase in traffic. Some of those drivers drive really fast. There are blind corners and hills and we have had some near misses. It is dangerous! The biggest problem is that people are driving way too fast. There will be a bad accident at some point. Maybe some signage will help, like "Narrow Road with Two-lane Traffic"

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): We have some signs near the bottom that say, "Impassable When Wet". There are more and more Sprinter vans and larger vehicles there. People get nervous near the top where the sides drop off and they try to stay in the middle. We have done some improvements, including graveling that road a few years ago which gives a little better traction when it is wet. It is a Forest Service road that is maintained by the county. There is also no good parking near the Buttes and there is a huge increase in dispersed camping on the Bears Ears road because it's an overflow area for Natural Bridges National Monument, so that will have to be addressed in the future.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): We should work with the county to put in more safety signs.

Ryan Benally (Vice Chair/Tribal Interest): It is impassible in the winter. Do you have a seasonal plan?

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): There are people who always get stuck out there in the winter because their GPS pointed them in that direction. We talked about a seasonal closure with gates but there are so many side roads that pour into the area that a gate at the Bears Ears road entrance would not stop everyone. Perhaps a sign at the bottom that says "This Road is Impassable" would deter a lot of travelers.

## VIDEO

[See Attachment E for transcript]

This is the area we were going to have a field trip to; South Elks Road, Bears Ears Buttes, and Milk Ranch Point. This is to start prepping the public and the MAC for our travel planning. We focused on giving examples of the kinds of roads we have up there, if these roads are impacting objects and values, why the road is there, and other things we look at during route evaluation for the Travel Plan. There are some parameters in the proclamation that say if we add motorized routes it must be to protect objects and values or for public safety. We will also look at dispersed camping. The MMP states we will be designating camp sites throughout that Zone, so we will take camping into consideration during route evaluation.

## DISPERSED CAMPING MANAGEMENT

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): Winter use is low because of snow. Hunting season is a busy time with large camps of families. We are busy all summer long with campers, family reunions, and the 24<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July see big groups. Most camp spots are

sustainable and durable, but we will have to look at each one to decide if we continue usage or stop the use if it is impacting the resources. Every meadow along the road is becoming a camp spot. Do we want that? Or should we direct that use? It is not year-round but from snow melt to first snow it is used heavily for camping.

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): Is the vegetation not regenerating? What is the damage caused by dispersed camping, if any?

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): There are heavily used spur roads and then people drive off those spur roads into the meadows. The vegetation at the more heavily used sites is seeing impact because it does not come back with that amount of use. Other sites that only get used a couple of days a week do not see that kind of impact. The amount of use a site is getting is a factor we will take into consideration when designating sites. Designated sites will probably get some hardening and we would have to decide what level of hardening we will do. I can see us making those roads more sustainable so people can get trailers in there.

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): Those meadows are really being heavily impacted, some of the areas are becoming decimated, and people are going further and further in. I hate to see restrictions but with so many people we cannot have the dispersed camping that is happening. There are just too many people.

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): Yes, we are seeing those impacts. Vegetation is not coming back. We need to decide what level of impacts are we comfortable with? Should we reserve some of the meadows for other uses? It is open country up there and we are seeing 4-wheelers, ATVs, and people driving cross-country right out of their campsite and not sticking to designated roads. We have tried to create some barriers and manage those sites, so they don't continue to grow. We need to figure out how to contain that impact.

Ryan Nehl (USFS Forest Supervisor): We are seeing parallel tracks in areas because of mud and erosion. It causes a lot of damage that does not recover quickly.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): As we are designating campsites we need to keep in mind if we are providing other opportunities for people to camp elsewhere? Meadows are prime camping spots, but serious impacts are going on. There are people who would be happy to camp down lower.

Dustin Randall (Developed Recreation): There is a big area closed off by quaky poles by Steamboat or Deadman. That could be used here to create parking spots with trails to camp spots, so it does not get torn up by vehicles driving out there. So, you can still use the clearings but not have the vehicles going out to the clearings.

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): Especially in a wet season ruts are a problem and when people get stuck it becomes quite a mess when they are getting pulled out of there. We don't want to close all camping down because it is an amazing place to camp, it just needs to be better managed.

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): I always thought that Grand Flats would be a great place for a campground. When the National Park Service closed that area down people just moved further toward Bears Ears and Lower Lost Park and to areas where it is harder to contain them, so a campground there at Hwy 95 and the Natural Bridges road would be good. People are there anyway.

Scot Flannery (Dispersed Recreation): I am all for creating other opportunities for people to camp in places like Grand Flat, but I am against closing dispersed camping. If you build a developed campground people will think you are closing dispersed camping and they will not like that. The BENM designation is bringing in all these people so now we have a problem to fix what was not there to begin with. There is a lot of open meadow and keeping people only 150 feet off the road is an issue.

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): We are not closing dispersed camping, but it would be "designated dispersed" camping. You will still be able to camp outside of a developed campground, but the dispersed sites would be in designated areas and only 150 feet off the road.

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): Have you given any thought to improving the roads up there, and would that invite more people? Are they county maintained?

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): South Elks and Bears Ears are both Forest Service roads that are county maintained. We have made improvements with gravel but there are no plans to improve more, but it is something to consider. When we designate the sites, we will add the spur roads onto the travel plan system as designated roads so they can be maintained and hardened which might help prevent people getting stuck and creating ruts.

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): When it comes to large events up there in the meadows what kind of impacts are you seeing? Are there restrictions on group size?

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): We ensure that vehicles are restricted to no more than 150 feet off the road by taping it off. We have seen an increase in large group events as well, so we will need to consider that when designating campsites. Currently, we do not have restrictions on group size.

Alfred Ben (Tribal Concerns) has joined so there are now enough people for a quorum.

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): There will be more discussion on camping from BLM this afternoon. USFS issues correlate with BLM issues. Grand Flats campground site is mostly BLM, but a small portion is park service. We recognize that we need to do something about camping along Bears Ears Road. Lots of sites have popped up over the years. Our CRRAMP planning will have a comprehensive look at where people are camping and what the resources are. If we close one place, we need to provide an opportunity somewhere else.

Rachel Wootton (BLM Utah Public Affairs Specialist): When we get back, we will have our public comment period. If members of the public are interested in giving a public comment, then please join a little early.

### **12:00-1:00 pm – Lunch**

### **1:00 pm – Public Comment Period**

MAC member attendance was taken. Those present include Bruce Adams, Gail Johnson, Jami Bayles, Lee Bennett, Dustin Randall, and Ryan Benally. Scoot Flannery and Alfred Ben did not answer.

Kamran Zafar – Hi everyone. This is Kamran Zafar. I am an attorney with the Grand Canyon Trust. First, I want to thank all the members of the committee and the BLM and forest employees for taking the time today. The pandemic has been hard on all of us and while these virtual meetings are likely, it is what none of us would prefer. I want to focus my comment on a topic that arose in this discussion of dispersed camping and its potential impacts. I completely understand the committee members' push back on prohibiting or heavily restricting... [poor cell signal is breaking up his call]. ...I do it quite often...the question is to prohibit or heavily restrict this activity...essentially...is damaging to us and Monument resources, particularly cultural resources. When the committee was discussing dispersed camping earlier there was discussion about impacts of camping on vegetation and how it might be antithetical to grazing, but there was no discussion to potential impacts to cultural resources. I think.... we lost sight of ...unfortunately, we all know too well.... [signal lost]

Bettyanne Kolner – Thank you. For the past 30 years I've been coming up to that area as a hiker and a backpacker. My concern is making it easier and easier for vehicles to be up there, especially in large amounts and off-road vehicles. I've seen a lot of damage from the newest bicycles with big, thick tires riding over cryptogam, on rock, on the edges of canyons. And a lot of UTVs that can go pretty much anywhere. I have a concern about opening some of the spur roads to make it easier for people to get back into the forest. I'm not sure how that can be managed but extrapolating about what you're saying about the visitation more than doubling in a year. If we look into the next decade what's that going to look like? I wonder how you can look at that over long term and include pedestrians in your talks. There probably are not as many of us backpacking, but I'm sure there are more now. It is really

important for me to be out in a place where I'm away from vehicles because it's pretty hard as a pedestrian to get away from vehicles. That would be my concern. As Kamran was saying, I think having vehicles go everywhere is hard on the archaeological resources. I've seen tire tracks go through areas of artifacts and it's making it so much easier for people to drive places. So, I hope you take that into consideration. Thank you.

Josh Ewing – Good afternoon everyone. I'm calling in this afternoon from Bluff. I too want to thank the hardworking folks at the agencies as well as the members volunteering on the Committee. This has so far been really impressive. As mentioned by the Forest Service report, Friends of Cedar Mesa is working closely with the agencies to bring private and public partnerships together to protect these highly visited cultural sites. In partnership with the World Monument Fund we are going to try to do a total of one million dollars to work directly at those sites that are getting a lot of visitation, to try to preserve them, for their sacred nature but also for the public to be able to enjoy and learn from. We're really happy to be working with the agencies on that. It's really productive. I was out at Lewis Lodge yesterday working with the crew. To follow up on the earlier discussion about Lewis Lodge, I want to comment about this idea of closing sites. I know it's nobody's first idea to close the sites. We highly, highly recommend a more phased approach because there are a lot of unintended consequences of closing sites. Before we start thinking of closing sites to public access, I think there's a lot of things we can do first. A place like Lewis Lodge that doesn't have any sign anywhere there to teach people how to Visit with Respect, you can start with signage. I took someone to Lewis Lodge yesterday who had never been there before and she basically told me that if you weren't here to show me exactly how to get to this site I would get to where I could see it, take a picture and go home. I think that most people, if we provide interpretation and a place to turn around, where they had a feeling that they accomplished something, we would be able to decrease the number of people to the site, significantly. Just yesterday afternoon, while we were there working, there was a group of 15 motorcyclists who had ridden to the top and then hiked into site. It was very crowded there with our work crew. We're not against closing sites, especially if it's in the direction of indigenous peoples who consider those sites sacred. There are unintended consequences, the primary one being that while that seems like a unique site it really isn't for the area. I could take you to at least a dozen other sites that are equally impressive, equally crazy on cliffs, and perhaps a lot more sensitive within a 5-mile radius of the Lewis Lodge. As soon as we close one site people will go to other sites and end up creating more damage. So, rather than creating new problems we need to come up with creative solutions to address the problems that we're seeing, and we're just getting started to do that and I think that we'll have a lot of success if we're partnering together on that. I hope we can do that even more in the future. Thanks for listening to my comment.

Louis Williams – Hello everybody. My name is Louis Williams and I've been a guide in this area for 9 years. I'm working with the Ancient Waves River and Hiking Adventures on the Navajo nation. I've been guiding in this area, so I've seen a significant increase in visitors that have come to this area, which has also brought an increase in vandalism and damage to the area. I've seen first-hand effects of the influx of visitors. I really appreciate everyone's

work and their involvement in managing BENM, this is a big task, so I want to extend my appreciation and thanks to everyone involved in this great deed. Much respect, everyone. I have several concerns as I'm out there. One is safety for people. The remoteness of these areas makes it hard to get to, and there isn't much cell phone coverage out there. I really think about the safety of the people and the access to the dwellings. They're very precarious and dangerous. I'm really for the idea of having people be accountable for their visits, which means a permit system for everyone that visits, including bike riders, hikers, ATV riders, etc. Everyone should be able to sign in and this would give the BLM and Forest Service the knowledge that they were there. Under that system I believe a lot of risk factors can be somewhat eliminated. This would also help increase funds for managing. I realize managing this area is very hard. It's a vast area. I'm glad to see that BENM is bringing everyone together like it intended with Tribes, Forest Service and BLM. It's very humbling to see so I just wanted to extend my appreciation. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Kamron Zafar [reconnected] – Hi everyone, this is Kamran again. Apologies for getting disconnected earlier. I will be brief. My comment concentrates on the discussion of dispersed camping and on how that might impact the cultural resources. There is significant oversight because the Monument was created to protect this cultural landscape and.... As we all know... a lot of people are not educated on the history of these cultural lands or the fragility of the cultural resources that can be found there. So it's easy to imagine that dispersed camping may lead to increased damage to cultural resources either because they are not aware of, and inadvertently damage cultural resources that they may come across, or because in their effort to find a dispersed campsite they've effectively increased their access to cultural resources, and in turn, that, of course, can lead to vandalism, which we're all familiar with in the area. Specifically, I urge this committee, BLM, and Forest Service to keep the Monument vision at the forefront when considering whether to allow dispersed camping or integration thereof. Cultural resources really need to be thought of, and any damaging activity should take a back seat. Thank you for hearing me out. I hope everyone is doing well during these uncertain times.

## **MAC Discussion/Consideration of Public Comments**

Lee Bennett (Archaeology): I appreciate hearing from people. I too have concerns about dispersed recreation's impact to cultural resources. I have not brought it up because perhaps we'll have an opportunity during the BLM's presentation to talk about it. I appreciate hearing that the public is also concerned with cultural resources.

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): I think this shows we have a lot of common ground with the public to be concerned with dispersed camping. Nobody likes the restrictions, but we realize something must be done with the increase in people going out there.

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): I think those who have been camping out there, such as hunters and family reunions want a place to go, so we must allow for some dispersed camping. It certainly might help to make a campground at Grand Flats.

## Update on Nomination Process

Jake Palma (BLM, Bears Ears National Monument Manager): We have looked into the nomination process over the last couple of hours. The call for nominations was published in the Federal Register on Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be accepting nomination applications for the five expiring seats until November 13<sup>th</sup>. The link has been put in the chat box so you can pull it up and see the process or to apply for one of those five seats that will be expiring in April 2021. It is open to the public as well as to members of the MAC if one of their seats is expiring. Also, the BLM Headquarters' vetting process is underway to fill the five seats that expired April 2020. HQ selections are going through background reviews, but they are nearing the end.

## 1:30 pm – Discussion of Cultural Resources and Recreation Area Management Plans at BLM sites – Misti Haines (BLM Recreation Planner), Jared Lundell (BLM Archaeologist), Jason Byrd (BLM Recreation Planner), and Jake Palma (BLM Monument Manager).

[See Attachment F]

### CAMPING MANAGEMENT

- Existing developed campgrounds in the Monticello Field Office include Superbowl, Creek Pasture, Hamburger Rock, Indian Creek Falls, and Sand Island. Superbowl is the only developed campground in BENM.
  - Gary Torres added: To put it into perspective: Grand County BLM has 45 campgrounds. 42 of those are north of Moab, three are south. There are at least 20 RV campgrounds in Moab. Moab gets 3 million visitors a year.
- MMP dictates our camping decisions.
  - Indian Creek Unit: dispersed camping is generally allowed, Shay Mountain Vista campground will be constructed, no camping in Shay Canyon, and Bridger Jack camping is limited to designated sites.
  - Shash Jaa Unit: dispersed camping is allowed only in previously disturbed sites within 150 feet of designated routes, camping is closed in San Juan ACEC, vehicle camping is not allowed in WSAs, and Mule Canyon camping is limited to designated areas.
- After analyzing the impacts of both developed and dispersed camping we will then determine the appropriate management strategy.
- Developed Campgrounds
  - Benefits: preventing disturbance to cultural sites, address human waste issues, limits new disturbances, protects dispersed opportunities, reduce wildlife impacts, and provides amenities.
  - Challenges: maintenance and staffing needs, pushing dispersed campers to other areas, and there is a large initial expense.
- Dispersed Camping

- Benefits: backcountry experience and it maintains a primitive setting.
- Challenges: potential to impact cultural resources, competing recreation uses, grazing, sensitive wildlife species impacts, and human waste issues.

#### CAMPING MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- How much development is appropriate? Are there economic opportunities to have locals develop campgrounds on private land?

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): In the past there has been some concern with folks in Monticello, Blanding, and Bluff about creating more campgrounds on public lands because it has a tendency to affect those people who have invested in the economy and built campgrounds there. But there needs to be a balance between people who want to stay in town with amenities and people who want to camp on public land without electricity, sewer, and running water.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): Generally what BLM campgrounds have a fire ring, picnic table, vault toilet, and a hardened flat surface. It boils down to what amenities people want, full plug in vs. a more primitive experience.

Lee Bennett (Archaeology): Not too long ago the city of Monticello completed an updated plan that included a component on economic development. The lodging business within the community wanted to make sure there are no public campgrounds that could take away potential customers. The big difference is what they are camping in. A motorhome or trailer needs amenities and a paved road. Tent/car camping or a smaller trailer has less need for developed amenities and might want a backcountry experience. I have observed that if there is a flat spot, no matter whose land it is, that is where they will camp. Rock climbers want to be as close to the route as they can get it. There was a group of campers, in the North Cottonwood area, of rock climbers surrounding an archaeological site using it as a table and shade structure. There is a diverse audience when talking about campers. It is astounding to see the large number of dispersed campsites that are on cultural resources or using part of a cultural resource as camp infrastructure. It is a tough choice the agencies face, not having a monolithic audience.

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): There is not a whole lot of private land outside of the towns if someone want to invest in a campground. People go because they like to go. If they have a choice to pay a fee or not pay anything just a few miles up the road they will just go up the road.

Dustin Randall (Developed Recreation): There is not a lot of private land around BENM and it would take quite a bit of infrastructure for anybody to try to utilize private land. I do not think there is a way private land can help the scenario. The BLM and forest service asked for it and now they have to deal with it.

Ryan Benally (Vice Chair/Tribal Interest): Something like Dalton Springs campground where there is a loop, and a fire ring, and an area for vehicles, and what not; is dispersed camping prohibited there?

Brian Murdock (USFS Recreation Planner): There are no restrictions right now. You can camp 150 feet off the road and ¼ mile from the developed campground.

Jared Berrett (Developed Recreation): Do not think of it as a limitation but more of an opportunity to serve the public and expand. If you look at the map, there is a huge dearth in the middle of the Monument. There are some good spots there to do some primitive campsite development, and more importantly pit toilets. Human waste is the most important part of that, or easily solved. So, if you develop some you will also ease your frustrations with every single meadow and pull-out on Bears Ears road. Have them on the map and when people are travelling through and google "Campsites" they will gravitate towards the ones that pop up. You will be increasing services and not decreasing them. You could then, tactfully, put signs up about restoring vegetation in the meadows and rotate them annually to help restore vegetation and animal habitat. I think if you add primitive campsites with a fire ring and some structures like a toilet it is a win-win for everybody. I think it is necessary to curb the dispersed camping without making a big deal about closing dispersed camping.

- Front Country Development Area Options
  - Grand Flats
  - Comb Wash
  - Shay Mountain Vista
  - Others?

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): There is interest toward Muley Point area. I know that is out of the Monument. I like both the Grand Flats and Shay Mountain Vista sites as far as developed campgrounds.

Lee Bennett (Archaeology): Please clarify for me where Shay Mountain Vista is. Is it by the gravel pit near the switchbacks?

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): It is essentially at the intersection of the Harts Draw road and Hwy 211. It is not at the gravel pit.

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): At our last meeting did we talk about something there at the Texas Flat Road? Maybe a primitive campground there because people are already camping there. People are already camping at Grand Flats and Comb Wash too, and Comb Wash already has some hardening.

Jake Palma (BLM, Bears Ears National Monument Manager): The Texas Flat Road is where the House on Fire trailhead is, and it is the most visited site. Want to discourage people from camping there.

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): There is a lot of camping on Texas Flat Road, especially as you get closer to the rim and Arch Canyon overlook. That is an area we are watching. Hopefully, if we provide good opportunities for developed camping in other places, it will take a little bit of the edge off of the growth in some of these others areas, but we may need to look at designation of sites and doing cultural surveys in that area as well. It is becoming a very popular area for dispersed camping.

Dustin Randall (Developed Recreation): I was at Harts Point this weekend and there were a ton of people camping out there. I do not know if they were all climbers or not. Having some pit toilets and stuff at the Shay Vista location is a good draw. I think it will help relieve some of the archaeological sites they are getting on down in Indian Creek. There is a lot of room for improvement and added infrastructure down that way.

**2:06 pm, Last check-in for public comments. Public Comment Period Closed.**

#### DEVELOPED CAMPGROUNDS CONSIDERATIONS

- What amenities should they have?

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): At a minimum: some kind of toilet facility, parking area, fire ring, and possibly a picnic table. It is out of reason to expect electricity or water.

Dustin Randall (Developed Recreation): Toilet and trash, so they do not put their trash in the toilet.

Lee Bennett (Archaeology): I think a defined parking area, depending on how developed this is, some spaces further apart and some closer together, fire ring. If you are charging \$ then you need a picnic table, trash receptacles and toilet facilities. I would also add an all-weather road, so you do not end up with ruts in the camping area.

Ryan Benally (Vice Chair/Tribal Interest): I would like to add a kiosk that reflects the nature of where they are at physically within the Monument and the cultural importance of the area. Would it be too much to ask for a fence around the campground with openings to trails to and from campground.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): Texas Flat and Comb Wash are good portal places for kiosk messaging for things like Tread Lightly, LNT, Visit with Respect, etc. We struggle because unlike the park service who files people though one entrance, we have eighty or ninety entrances to Bears Ears. So, we could develop some

kind of portal at the campgrounds. What is the MAC's reaction to having these three places as portal facilities?

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): There is no way you can overeducate the public. You cannot have enough kiosks and information signs to deal with all the variety of people coming.

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): I think Bruce is right. A lot of people pay attention to those signs. I think having the signs or kiosks with educational information are important. You have to try to give them as much information as you can, so they understand.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): We will work with the Tribes about what the messages should be.

Jake Palma (BLM, Bears Ears National Monument Manager): Is the MAC comfortable with pursuing these locations for developed campgrounds? Or any other locations you would like to discuss?

Gail Johnson (Livestock Grazing): I think Muley Point should be added to the list.

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): Muley Point is outside of the Monument and Glen Canyon manages that location, but we are working on a partnership to develop some camping there. That is a separate process from the Monument process. I will add, about amenities, that we struggle with trash collection. That is one thing campgrounds generally have, but in this area, there are very few vendors. I put it out to bid a couple of times for the Shash Jaa and Indian Creek areas and we either get no bids or bids that are too expensive. As we go forward with economic development maybe there could be some sort of public/private partnership. One thing campground fee dollars go to is trash collection, and in this instance, it may mean that all the fee dollars have to go toward trash collection. That is why our education focuses on pack-it-in pack-it-out.

Greg Sheehan (BLM Utah State Director): We should contemplate that the more developments we put in, whether that is campsites, restroom facilities, trash collection, the more cost we incur over time. This leads to a need for fees. We will not get any more money from congress whether we put in zero campgrounds or one hundred campgrounds. We need to keep on the forefront that if we bring these services to the public that fees may need to be a part of that. We have a statewide RAC that approves the fees and says what those fee rates are. Do not make commitments without knowing how to pay for it. I think fees are ok. Some people do not think so. Nobody wants restrooms that cannot be cleaned and garbage dumpsters that are overflowing with trash. It is unlikely we will get new funds so fees would be important when looking at the life cycle of these projects.

#### DISPERSED CAMPING

- Are there any restrictions we should consider?

- What management actions can be taken by the BLM/USFS to prevent impacts to other resources while still providing camping opportunities?

Lee Bennett (Archaeology): One thing I noticed in Indian Creek this weekend was a visual impact. The upper narrow canyon part is windy and well vegetated, and you do not really get the impression that there are as many people in the canyon that there are. As you move further North on Hwy 211 the canyon opens up and there is several activities in the area, mostly rock climbing. I noticed that the users are making pull-offs to park close to their route of choice. I also noticed that heavy equipment has been in there making pull-outs and I cannot find section 106 documents supporting that land use disturbance. As you move down the canyon it gets broader and you go around a corner and back toward North Cottonwood there is almost no large vegetation and from certain perspectives all you see are dispersed campers. It looks like a K-Mart parking lot with people in one spot after another. I do not like it from a cultural resource stand because they are damaging the resources in some places. I wonder if it meets your visual or landscape management goals in the management plan. What is the BLMs perspective on that level of camping and visual impacts?

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): The BLM has not done any heavy equipment work to create pull-outs in the Indian Creek corridor. It is a state route and their right-of-way allowed them to do maintenance. They were in there taking care of drainage issues. When they work on things like that within their right-of-way it removes vegetation which could then potentially invite others to park there. I am not aware of damage to any cultural sites in there so I would love it if I could pick your brain, Lee, sometime and maybe take a little field trip so you can show us where your concerns are. It is tricky with the way the Monument boundaries are because we are here working within the Monument boundaries, but these issues also exist outside of the boundaries. As we work on these plans that is something we are considering; that what we decide in this Monument plan could have effects in other areas, so we need to be careful in those decisions.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): We need to have a conversation about visual impacts. I also noticed people camping all over the place. It looks like a parking lot. Right now, it is not closed to dispersed camping and some of these areas are outside of the Monument boundaries and we need to be thoughtful as we move forward.

### **Break 2:30-2:40 pm**

VIDEO: INDIAN CREEK UNIT

[See Attachment G for transcript]

This video is to give you familiarity with the Indian Creek Unit of BENM, to introduce some of the work being done in the area, and some potential opportunities for better management of the area.

VIDEO: BUTLER WASH

[See Attachment H for transcript]

VIDEO: TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS

[See Attachment I for transcript]

RECREATION SETTINGS & DECISIONS

[See Attachment J]

- Terminology
  - Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)
  - Recreation Management Zone (RMZ)
  - Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)

- INDIAN CREEK UNIT

- Indian Creek has one SRMA, one ERMA, and no RMZs.
- Objectives
  - Provide world class recreation opportunities.
  - Protect the objects and values of BENM.
  - Support a growing travel and tourism economy.
  - Targeted management.
  - Maintain and enhance facilities.
- Benefits
  - Extend beyond the visitor.
  - Experienced during and *after* the visit.
- Activities and Experiences
  - What do people want?
- Physical Settings
  - How much development?
  - Where do toilets go?
  - How many campgrounds?
  - What are the changes?
  - Etc.
- Social Setting
  - How many other people do you see?
  - Are they large groups? Size limits?
  - Is use allocated to create more solitude?
  - What are the changes?
- Operational Settings
  - What visitor services are provided? Where?
  - Should we build new roads or trails?
  - Are there restrictions?
  - What are the changes?

- SHASH JAA UNIT

- Shash Jaa Unit has one SRMA, no ERMAs, and eight RMZs.
- Trail of the Ancients RMZ

- How are we going to achieve the desired settings?
- Developed campgrounds and visitor contact station.
- Provide more on-site interpretive materials.
- Staff present on site frequently.
- Allow for increased use.
- Focal Areas.
  - o Mule Canyon Developed RMZ.
  - o Butler Wash Road.
    - Monarch Cave.
  - o House on Fire.

Should the BLM and USFS keep using the “Focal Area” concept? Everywhere, or only some RMZs? If so, what Focal Areas should be included/prioritized? Do you have any additional recommendations for RMZs or potential Focal Areas?

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): I like the way you develop the RMZs. This is such a big area with so many different sites I do not know how you would handle it without having some Focal Areas. I like that approach. I know Secretary Zinke wanted to see better parking area and restroom development at House on Fire.

- Potential Focal Areas
  - o Salvation Knoll
  - o Butler Wash Dinosaur Track Site
  - o Cave Towers (SITLA cooperation)

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): The Cave Towers area is ripe for protective development and Arch Canyon is an icon. I was under the impressions that this Monument, created under the Trump administration, came with some dollars attached to it to help with some of the development. Has that gone away or was it just in my head?

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): We did not receive a Base Funding increase. There is a three-way MOU with BLM, SITLA, and Friends of Cedar Mesa (FOCM) for managing those areas and developing interpretive content. FOCM has done an extraordinary amount of work there to help make those sites visitor ready. We have some things in place to work on Cave Towers. It is in a great location and close to other Focal Areas. As far as funding goes, we received one-time funds in 2017 and 2018. Those funds were used to pay for high priority projects, survey work, preparatory work, and to complete the Monument Management Plan. We did not receive a Base Funding increase for the Monument. We have had a lot of support from BLM Utah in shuffling around funding to help meet the needs with staffing and that sort of thing.

Lee Bennett (Archaeology): I like the idea of Focal Areas. I think it is something the public would enjoy and is suitable for visitors without a lot of time or who do not have a vehicle suitable for backcountry travel. I think it is a great opportunity for agencies to deliver the

message of how to visit without ruining those types of things. Do you have Focal Areas identified in other Bears Ears Units?

Jake Palma (BLM, Bears Ears National Monument Manager): Newspaper Rock is a potential Focal Area to consider. During filming there was carload after carload of people stopping to take pictures and use the restroom. It never stopped. The people were reading the signs that are there now. It would be a good place to capture a lot of people and put interpretation there.

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): Do you think we can improve that area?

Misti Haines (BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner): We would like to do a little more there. The map is faded, and more on-site ranger presence would be good.

Amber Denton Johnson (BLM Acting Field Manager): Other obvious areas to consider would be Superbowl Campground, the Shay Vista area, and Donnelly Canyon. Fees: we were proactive when we wrote the campground business plan and if we build a campground we already have approval to charge fees at Comb Wash, Grand Flats, Shay Vista and a couple of others outside BENM which are included in the Cedar Mesa business plan. There are other funding sources like the Great American Outdoors Act which could be used for maintenance and improvements of existing sites.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): There are locations adjacent to BENM, like Hamburger Rock Campground, where we are working on cleaning it up, fixing it, and expanding. That will help with some of the pressures related to that. Any other thoughts on front country Focal Areas?

Jared Berrett (Developed Recreation): Where, specifically, is the Arch Canyon Interp. site and what does that entail?

Misti Haines (BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner): It is where the existing great house is. It has a sign and parking area. Feedback from partnership groups tells us that the trail may be a little too close to the site and the fence is probably inappropriate. Is this a place you would want to leave alone or address?

Jared Berrett (Developed Recreation): I think that Arch Canyon site is a beautiful spot for a short hike. It would be cool if there was a little bridge where you enter the stream, by the parking area by the Ute land. I know Search and Rescue has anchor points there by the cliffs and the area has been hardened so it might be a nice place to expand. My first thought is to not develop because it feels like you are drawing attention to entire corridor and you will get more traffic. There is already conflict with off-road vehicles. I think you would do well to improve the Arch Canyon Overlook. The road is quite good most of the way there and there is some archaeology up on top that you could expand to. Our guests feel

like it is as good, if not better, than any national park they have visited. It feels like you are trying to draw attention to this entire Hwy 95 corridor and more away from the Cedar Mesa/Fish & Owl/Road Canyon/Grand Gulch/wilderness areas. Is this what you are trying to do since these sites are more accessible than the backcountry sites?

Misti Haines (BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner): You are describing the concept well. We were thinking a lot about Butler Wash Road because it has all those short day-hikes that people string together. What you could get out of a day on Trail of the Ancients is more analogous to that. It takes a lot of work to hike to those Cedar Mesa permitted sites, whereas the Butler Wash sites are easier.

Jared Berrett (Developed Recreation): I like where you are going with that. If you make the sites along Hwy 95 attractive and easily accessible with parking areas, toilets, etc., If you labeled it with tier levels it could be a Tier 1 with the primary visitation spot for first-timers in BENM, and then the second tier could be Butler Wash Road. It's more of a dirt road, you have to be leery of weather and road conditions, you could get lost because you are a little further out, but do a little with pit toilets and things. Tier 3 is Cedar Mesa remote back roads sites. And the 4<sup>th</sup> Tier is like the wilderness area. To me, that kind of structure lends itself well to multiple levels of interest of visitors and keeps those remote places for those who are die-hards and willing to throw their backpack on and spend five days out there; which is not the majority of visitors who are just casually passing through. I like what I am seeing. I am just throwing out a couple of ideas and asking to clarify if that is what you are kind of thinking.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): That does address the diverse visitor experience. We need to accommodate those that want to backpack in and those who want road-side opportunities. Having that range is a good place to start.

**3:45 pm – Final Thoughts/Wrap Up – Bruce Adams (MAC Chairperson), Gary Torres (BLM Canyon Country District Manager), and Ryan Nehl (Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor)**

There are not enough MAC members here to vote on the recommendation, but we will send a document with the potential recommendations to the MAC members to help guide some of the conversation at the next MAC meeting. We will also share the videos and MAC meeting notes with the MAC members. We will plan on another MAC meeting before the April terms expire.

Jake Palma (BLM, Bears Ears National Monument Manager): Thank you to all the MAC members for coming to the meeting and really engaging. I know it is tough in an online setting. And thanks to everyone who put this meeting together and to the public for joining and listening in and for your comments.

Gary Torres (BLM District Manager/Designated Federal Official): I was impressed with the engagement and the presentations. Thank you staff and MAC for being involved and thoughtful. I learned a lot. We are on track to continue the conversation.

Ryan Nehl (USFS Forest Supervisor): Thanks everybody for participating today through the challenge of virtual engagement. The quality of the presentations was excellent. The videos were spectacular. Hats off to you. I look forward to continued engagement and wrestling through these issues we have, particularly management of the sites. There is no clear-cut or easy solution. I appreciate the commiseration and advise the MAC provides. Thank you.

Bruce Adams (Chairman/Local Elected Official): The BLM and Forest Service have done a great job in pulling all this information together. That is one of the reasons I would like to get copies of everything. I hope we can have another meeting before we lose five more committee members. It was a good meeting with lots of information. I appreciate everyone being on the call.

**4:00 pm – Adjourn**

---

## Attachments

---

- A. Federal Register Notice
- B. News Release
- C. Agenda
- D. Agenda Review PowerPoint slides
- E. Ethics Responsibilities of FAC Representative Members PowerPoint slides
- F. BENM Updates PowerPoint slides
- G. USFS BENM Use, Impacts, and Management PowerPoint slides
- H. Virtual Field Tour: Shash Jaa Unit Part 1, USFS Video Transcript
- I. CRRAMP Camping Management PowerPoint slides
- J. Virtual Field Tour: Indian Creek Unit Video Transcript
- K. Virtual Field Tour: Shash Jaa Unit Part 2, Butler Wash Video Transcript
- L. Virtual Field Tour: Front Country Focal Areas, Trail of the Ancients Video Transcript
- M. Recreation Settings and Decisions PowerPoint slides

## Attachment A – Federal Register Notice

---

4310-DQ

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[20X LLUTY02000 L17110000.PN0000 LXSSJ0650000]

Notice of Public Meeting, Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee,

Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and the Federal Lands Recreation

Enhancement Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee (BENM MAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The BENM MAC is scheduled to meet on October 15-16, 2020. October 15, 2020 is planned to be a field trip from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.<sup>[PE1]</sup>. Participants should meet at the BLM Monticello Field Office. October 16 will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hideout Golf Course and Event Center. A virtual meeting platform and/or teleconference may substitute the field trip and in-person meeting if public health restrictions are in effect.

ADDRESSES: Attendees to the field trips on October 15, 2020 will meet at the BLM Monticello Field Office located at 365 N Main St, Monticello, UT 84535. The meeting

on October 16, 2020 will be held at the Hideout Community Center located at 648 South Hideout Way, Monticello, Utah 84535.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jake Palma, Bears Ears National Monument Manager, P.O. Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535 or via email with the subject line "BENM-MAC" to [blm\\_ut\\_mt\\_mail@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_mt_mail@blm.gov), or by calling the Monticello Field Office at (435) 587-1500. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question for the above individual. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MAC was established to provide advice and information to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the BLM, and to the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, to consider in planning for and managing the Bears Ears National Monument. The 15-member committee represents a wide range of interests including local and state government, paleontological and archaeological expertise, conservation community, livestock grazing permittees, Tribal, developed and dispersed recreation, private landowners, local business owners, and the public at large. More information can be found on the BENM MAC website at <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/rac-near-you/utah/benm-mac>.

The meeting is open to the public; however, transportation, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the participating individuals. A public comment period will be offered on October 16 during the scheduled meeting.<sup>[PE2]</sup> Depending on the number of people wishing to comment and the time available, the time for individual comments may be limited. People wishing to speak will be asked to sign in before the scheduled oral comment time for planning and record keeping purposes. Written comments may also be sent to the Monticello Field Office at the address listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this notice. All comments received prior to the meeting will be provided to the BENM MAC.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Detailed meeting minutes for the BENM MAC meeting will be maintained in the Canyon Country District Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within ninety (90) days following the meeting. Minutes will also be posted to the BENM MAC website.

Authority: 43 CFR 1784.4-2

---

Anita Bilbao

BLM Utah Acting State Director



# News Release

BLM Utah Monticello Field Office  
Media Contact: Lynn McAloon (435) 210-0827 [lmcaloon@blm.gov](mailto:lmcaloon@blm.gov)  
September 16, 2020

## **The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service invite the public to participate in online meeting of the Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee**

MONTICELLO, Utah — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Monticello Field Office and U.S. Forest Service Manti-La Sal National Forest will host an online meeting of the Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee (BENM MAC) on Friday, October 16, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Planned agenda items for the October 16 MAC meeting include discussion of implementation-level plans such as cultural resources and recreation area management, including an opportunity for public input, as well as administrative business including ethics training for committee members.

MACs are citizen-based committees consisting of up to 15 members that represent interests present in the local community. “The Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee is one of several important avenues for the BLM to involve stakeholders in planning and management of the Monument,” said Acting BLM Monticello Field Manager Amber Johnson. “We are working hard to ensure we host informative, effective, and safe meetings while prioritizing the health and safety of MAC members, employees, and the public.”

The agenda and meeting access information (including how to log in and participate) will be announced on the BENM MAC webpage at <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/rac-near-you/utah/benm-mac>. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment, the amount of time for individual comments may be limited. Written statements or questions related to the online public meeting may also be directed to: BLM Monticello Field Office, Attn: Jake Palma, P.O. Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535, by phone at (435) 587-1500, or via email with the subject line “BENM-MAC” to [blm\\_ut\\_mt\\_mail@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_mt_mail@blm.gov).

Presidential Proclamations 9558 and 9681, which established and modified the Bears Ears National Monument, call for an advisory committee to provide information and advice regarding development of the management plan and, as appropriate, management of the monument. The Records of Decision and Approved Monument Management Plans for Bears Ears National Monument were signed on February 6, 2020. These plans call for implementation-level plans to manage travel and transportation, cultural resources, and recreation. The MAC will, as stated in the Presidential Proclamations, provide information and advice, as appropriate, regarding management of the Bears Ears National Monument. This meeting will provide the MAC an opportunity to fulfill this role as it relates to implementation-level planning by allowing members to provide feedback regarding issues, public use sites, visitor needs, and outreach strategies.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800877-8339 to leave a message or question for the above individual. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

-BLM-

*The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In fiscal year 2018, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$105 billion in economic output across the country. This economic activity supported 471,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.*

Follow the BLM on Twitter, Facebook, and Flickr [@BLMUtah](#)

###

Attachment C – Agenda

**Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee  
Online Meeting Agenda  
Oct. 16, 2020**

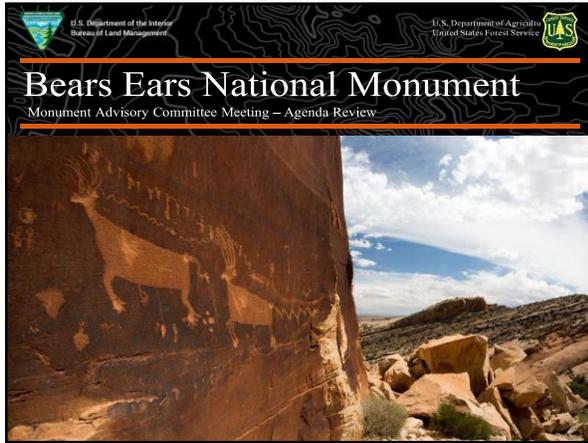
TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
8:00 a.m.	Online meeting logistics	<b>Lynn McAloon</b> – BLM Public Affairs Specialist
8:15 a.m.	Welcome	<b>Bruce Adams</b> – MAC Chairperson  <b>Gary Torres</b> – BLM Canyon Country District Manager  <b>Ryan Nehl</b> – Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor
8:30 a.m.	Agenda review	<b>Jake Palma</b> – BLM Monument Manager
8:45 a.m.	Ethics Training  Purpose: Provide ethics training for all MAC members.	<b>Dave Dahle</b> – BLM Assistant Ethics Counselor
9:15 a.m.	Review of February 2020 MAC meeting minutes  Purpose: Review accomplishments and discuss any other BENM updates.	<b>Jake Palma</b> – Bears Ears National Monument Manager  <b>Ted Neff</b> – USFS Deputy District Ranger
10:00 a.m.	Break	

10:15 a.m.	<p>Discussion of Cultural Resources and Recreation Area Management Plans at sites on USFS lands</p> <p>Purpose: Present challenges and solutions from USFS perspective and get recommendations from the MAC.</p>	<p><b>Brian Murdock</b> – USFS Recreation Manager</p> <p><b>Ted Neff</b> – USFS Deputy District Ranger</p> <p><b>Don Irwin</b> – USFS District Archaeologist</p>
------------	--	--

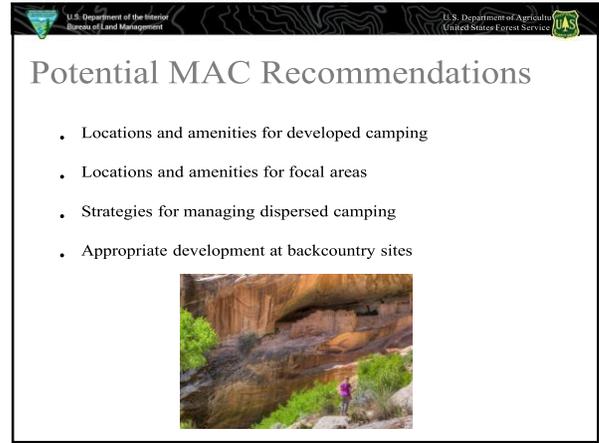
		<b>Charmaine Thompson</b> – USFS Heritage Program Manager
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Public comment period	Members of the public, sign up will be required for oral comments
1:45 p.m.	Discussion/consideration of public comments	<b>Bruce Adams</b> – MAC Chair
2:15 p.m.	Break	
2:30 p.m.	<p>Discussion of Cultural Resources and Recreation Area Management Plans at sites on BLM lands</p> <p>Purpose: Present challenges and solutions from BLM perspective and get recommendations from the MAC.</p>	<p><b>Misti Haines</b> – BLM Recreation Planner</p> <p><b>Jared Lundell</b> – BLM Archaeologist</p> <p><b>Jason Byrd</b> – BLM Recreation Planner</p> <p><b>Jake Palma</b> – Bears Ears National Monument Manager</p>

3:45 p.m.	<p>Final thoughts/wrap up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other MAC member discussion topics</li> <li>• Dates and topics for next meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bruce Adams</b> – MAC Chairperson</p> <p><b>Gary Torres</b> – BLM Canyon Country District Manager</p> <p><b>Ryan Nehl</b> – Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor</p>
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn	All

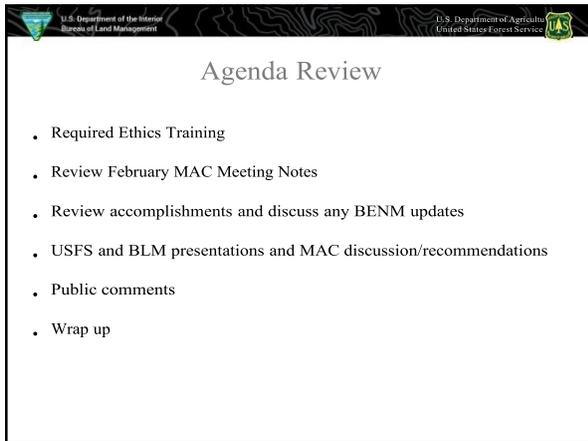
# Attachment D – Agenda Review PowerPoint Slides



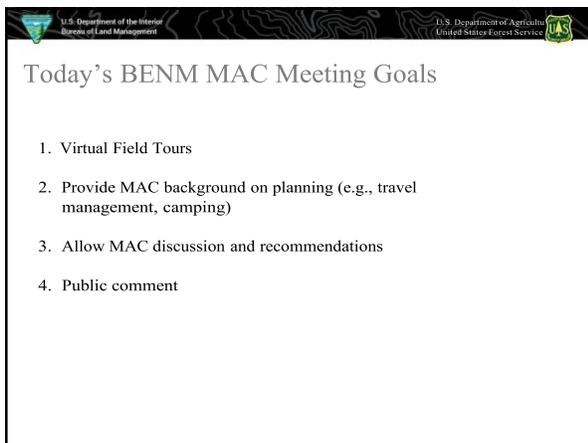
1



4



2

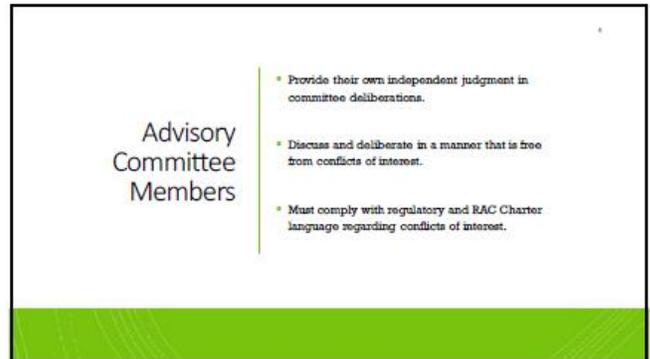


3

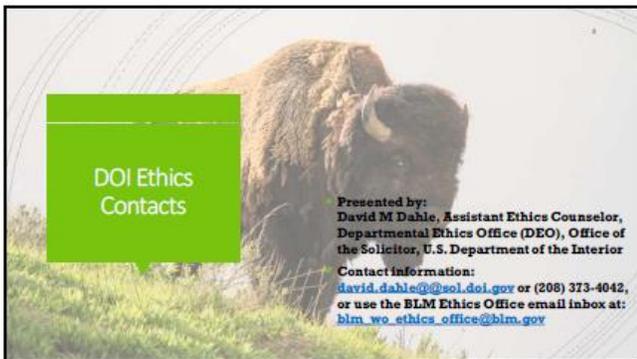
# Attachment E – Ethics Responsibilities of FAC Representative Members PowerPoint Sides



1



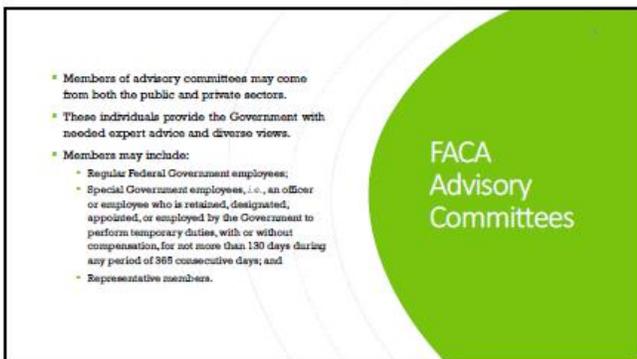
4



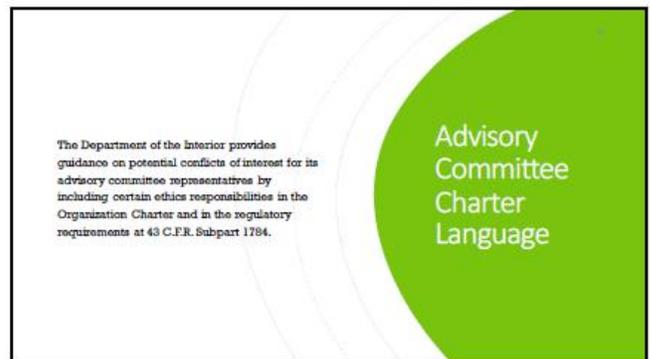
2



5



3



6

## Bears Ears Monument Advisory Committee Charter

13. ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS:

**Non-Federal Members.** Non-Federal members of the Committee and subcommittees appointed as representatives are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, **no non-Federal Committee or subcommittee members will participate in any Committee or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation, in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.**

As provided in 43 CFR 1784.3-2, members of the Committee shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by BLM, or in any litigation related thereto. For the purpose of this paragraph, indirect interest includes holdings of a spouse or dependent child.

**Special Government Employees Members.** Members of the Committee appointed as special Government employees (SGEs) are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions. Additionally, SGE members are required, prior to appointment and annually thereafter, to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report. SGE members are also required to receive initial ethics training prior to performing any Committee duties and to receive annual ethics training thereafter. The Department of the Interior will provide materials to those members serving as special Government employees, explaining their ethical obligations.

7

## Direct and Predictable Effect on Financial Interest

You are prohibited from participating in a specific party matter only if the matter will have a **direct and predictable effect** on your direct financial interest.

10

## Regulatory Language Specific to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Committees

43 CFR 1784.3-3 explains that **all members of the [RAC] shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by BLM, or in any litigation related thereto.** For the purposes of this paragraph, "indirect interest" includes holdings of a spouse or dependent child.

8

## Only Advisory Duties are Restricted

- May act, outside of advisory duties, on behalf of self or others, in a specific party matter before DOI that affects your financial interests.
- May not act**, as part of advisory duties, on that specific party matter.

11

## Direct Financial Interest

- "Direct financial interest" means one's own personal financial interest.
- "Financial interest" means the potential for gain or loss as a result of governmental action on the matter.
- Financial interest might arise from:
  - Ownership of financial instruments or investments such as stock, bonds, mutual funds, or real estate;
  - A salary;
  - Indebtedness;
  - A job offer; or
  - Any similar interest that may be affected by the matter.

9

## Application to Your Committee

- If you find yourself in a position to take any advisory action regarding a specific party matter that would affect your direct financial interest, you must:**
  - Notify the Designated Federal Official and
  - Refrain yourself from participating in that action.

12

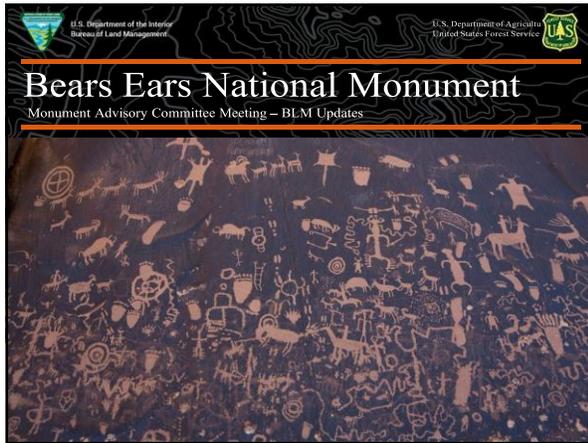


13

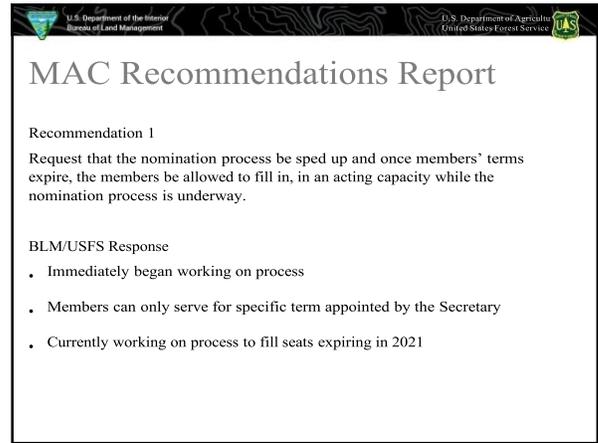


14

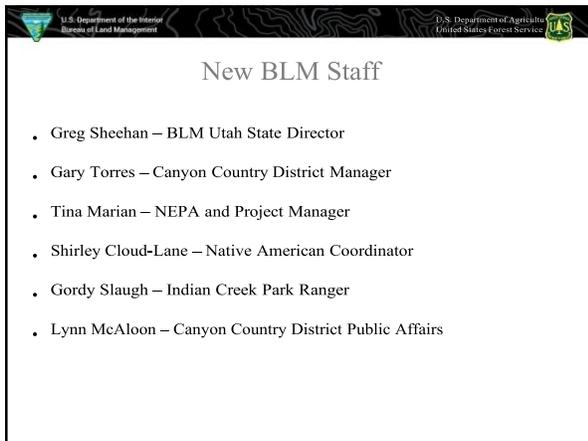
# Attachment F – BENM Updates PowerPoint Slides



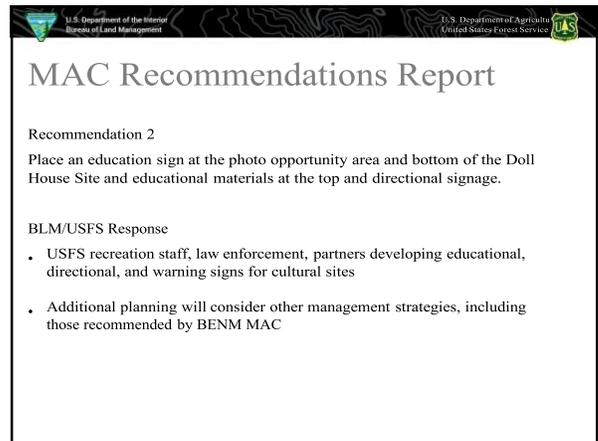
1



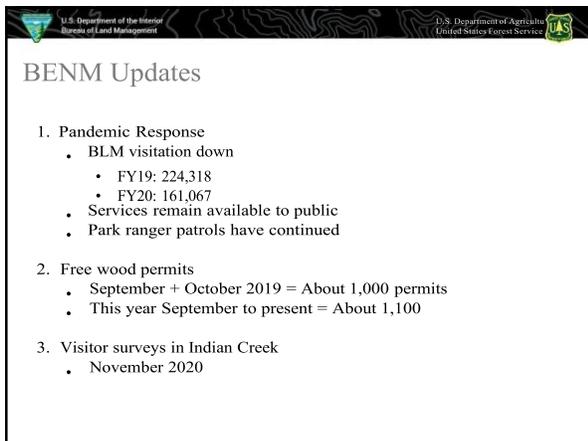
4



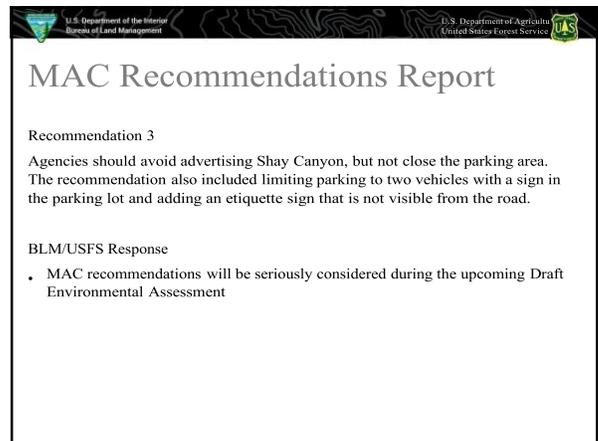
2



5



3



6

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## MAC Recommendations Report

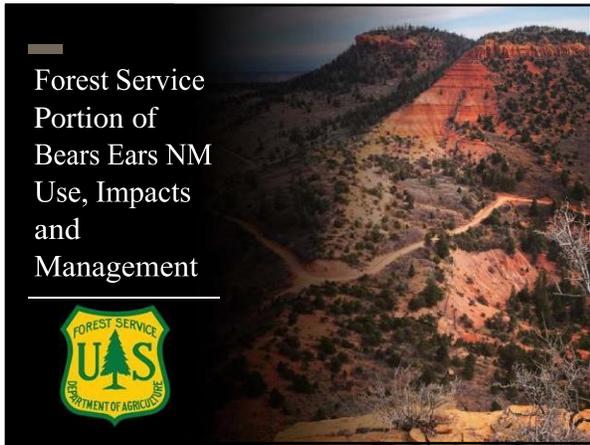
**Recommendation 4**

Support the BLM's proposal to provide parking, fencing, interpretative signage, moving fee tube, creating a loop trail, and adding picnic tables to the parking lot for the House on Fire site.

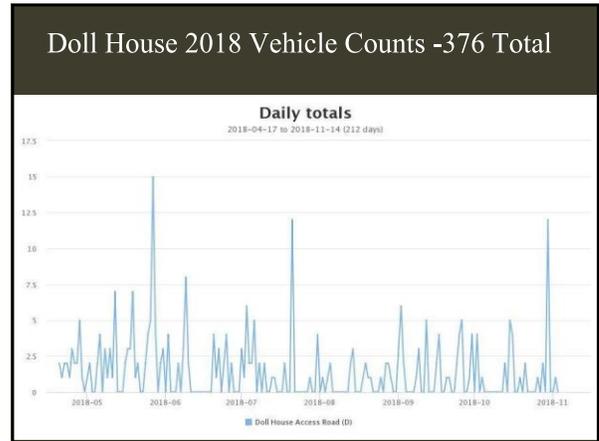
**BLM/USFS Response**

- BLM initiated 30-day public scoping with the proposal
- Engaging with tribes for input on the project

7



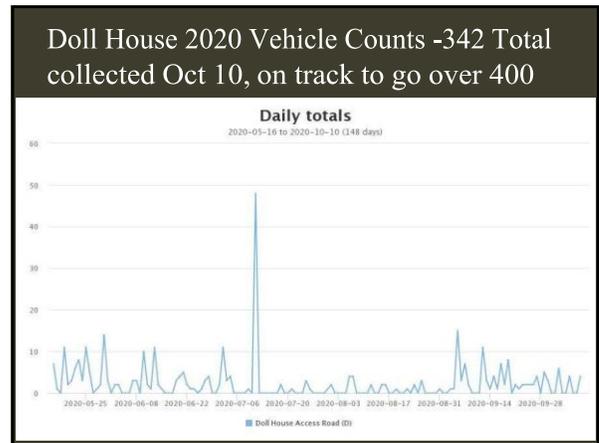
1



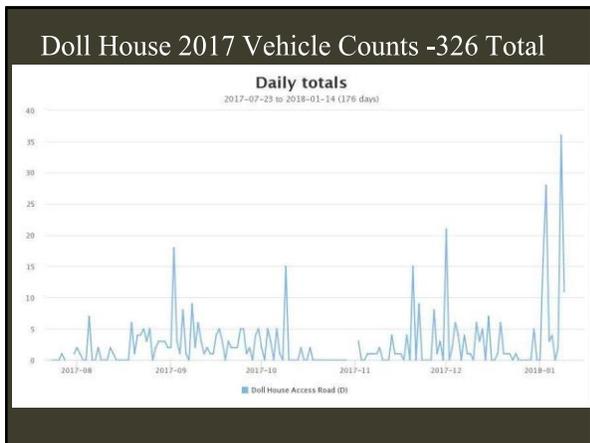
4



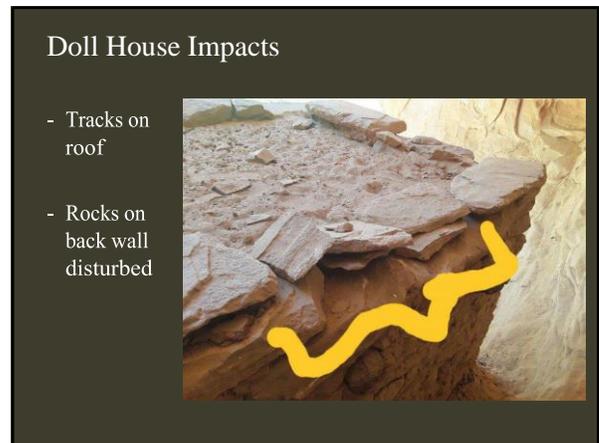
2



5



3



6

## Doll House Impacts

-Increased erosion at base of structure from user created trails



7

## Lewis Lodge Visitor Overview



- Rough 4X4 drive on rocky steep road
- 1 mile hike to overlook
- To visit actual site is an additional .3 mile hike and some exposed scrambling
- Ledge where site is located is narrow and cannot hold many visitors at one time
- To access ledge you must climb over a wall and around the kiva

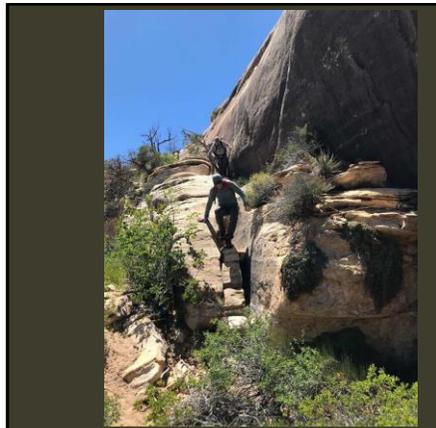
10



## Doll House Visitor Mgt Actions

- Increase FS patrols (once a week)
- Installed sign with instructions on visiting the site
- Improved the user created trail to mitigate erosion
- Outlined parking area with brush to contain vehicles
- Installed traffic counter
- Closed parking lot to camping in BENM Plan

8



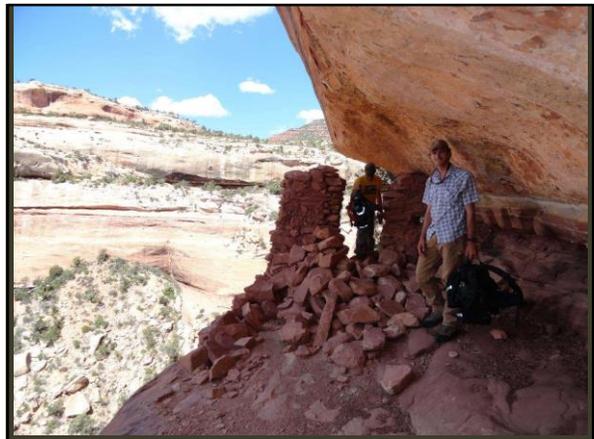
11



## Potential Future Doll House Visitor Mgt Actions

- Increased signage with Visit with Respect messaging
- Designate the trail and maintain it
- Prohibit entrance to the alcove
- Require permits

9



12



13

### Lewis Lodge Visitor Numbers

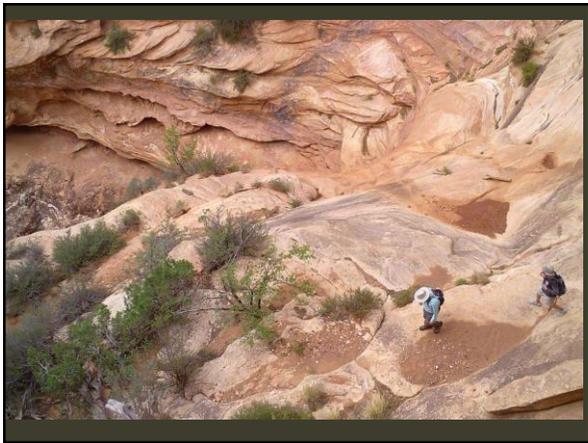
326 Individuals at the site in 2020 to the end of September

On track to be over 500 users this year

This is more than a 10X increase in use



16



14

### Lewis Lodge Visitor Impacts

- Collector piles noticed this year
- Visitors continuing to walk on the roof of the Kiva and other structures
- Increased erosion around the features from foot traffic
- Some areas have seen as much as 20 cm lost this season due to increased foot traffic in the site



17



15



### Manti—La Sal NF, Friends of Cedar Mesa, and Woods Canyon Archaeology Sign a MOA

“The idea for this signing comes from two places,” said Louis (Ted) Neff, Moab/Monticello Deputy District Ranger. “First, it comes from the ongoing relationship between descendant communities, such as Native American Nations/Pueblos/Tribes and Pioneer Groups with the Manti—La Sal National Forest and the Friends of Cedar Mesa group. Second, it’s an extension of cultural resources shared stewardship efforts that these groups are working on.”

18

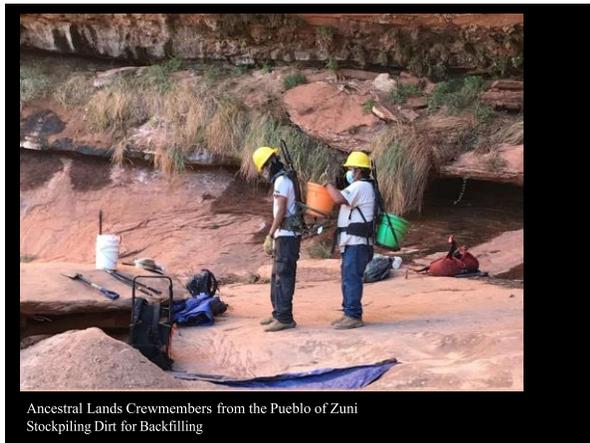
## Lewis Lodge Emergency Treatment

- Backfilling**
  - Exposed wall footers, mortar pads, intact cultural deposits, and collapsed roofing
  - Loss of 20 cm + deposits in the path of the main trail through Section 2
  - Buffer with a layer of sterile backfill to protect them from foot traffic and halt any detrimental slope erosion.
- Close Diversion Trails**
  - Because visitors are the most active threat to the site, steps should be taken to close or minimize diversion trails.

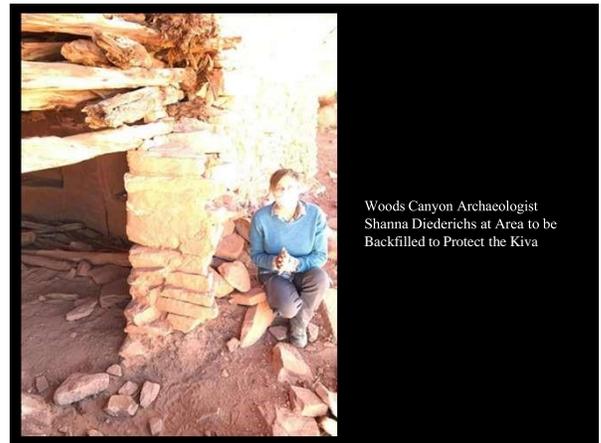
19



22



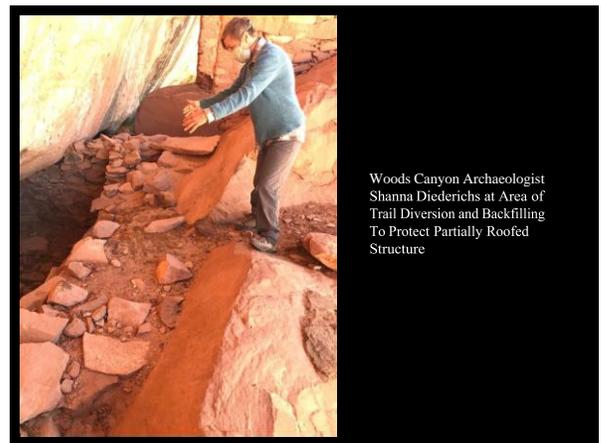
20



23



21



24



## Lewis Lodge Long Term Planning

---

- Long term Planning
- Is Lewis Lodge a candidate for developed public site?
- Long term planning vs. short term responses to visitation and damage
- Potential Visitor Use Management
  - Prohibiting entering ledge
  - Stopping people at Overlook
  - Permits

25



## Bears Ears Road Numbers

---

- 2019- 6971 vehicles
- 2020- 10,569 to October 1
- On track to be over 14,000 this year, which is 2x last year

26

## Attachment H – Virtual Field Tour: Shash Jaa Unit Part 1, USFS Video Transcript

---

Virtual Field Tour - SHASH JAA UNIT PART 1, USFS

Brain Murdoch:

So we've come up the South elks road and we're down here on Milk Ranch point now inside one of our motorized backcountry zones in the monument on Milk Ranch Point road that eventually connects with BLM land as you drop off the point here, and want to talk a little bit about travel management out here today.

The proclamation directs agents needs to come up with travel management plan where we will designate roads and trails for motorized and non-motorized use. That's something we're going to be moving into it management here it is not coming up with that travel plan with public support, public input, the MAC input and the travel input.

One thing to remember as we as we start travel planning is the proclamation does put some side words on what we can do with new routes so as we look for new if we have new motorized routes we are proposing those will need to be two different factors including public safety--will have to be something that will be necessary for Public safety--or to protect the objects and values of the monument. So those two things are going to be required of any new routes will also be looking at the existing routes and going through those route by route and basically analyzing the values and the risks of each of those different routes so when we look at values for a road we're looking at things like is this road necessary or helpful for us for management--timber management, fuel management, range management, those type of things.

Also is it a road that's important for just general public recreation and motorized access? That'll be something that's a value for each of these roads potentially as well. Risks will be looking at or things like does it affect the ecosystem function of the area is it impacting riparian or wetlands, what kind of impact does it have on wildlife, what kind of impact does it have on non-motorized recreation--which is an important value out here as well--and then of course we'll be looking at how those roads potentially impact the objects and values in the monument such as heritage resources. So we'll be moving into that process here with the public and with the MAC and looking at those risks and values.

Don Irwin:

An important aspect of travel management is the resource protection measures that are needed and with cultural resources on the monument they are in the highest densities of anywhere in the southwest, let alone the United States so we're talking thousands and thousands--tens of thousands of sites.

One of the aspects of having so many sites is that many times you find when you put in a road system they favor certain areas that would have been favored prehistorically, and so one of the things we find is that sometimes roads like this end up cutting right through archaeological sites and they end up destroying features and deposits that are really important, not only to scientists but also to the tribal folks that have connections to the land.

Another aspect of Road systems is that they provide access and in this setting, we're on Milk Ranch Point, and there are dead end roads on Mill Ranch Point that we have recently, in The last five years, seen people doing a lot of exploration on four-wheelers and going off-road in burn areas that have opened up, areas we've directly seen where people have gone to sites using these dead end roads and looted them. So we have pot hunting going on we have a lot of access issues where people are going and they're exploring further and further out from this main road that we're on right now, and so there's need to balance the resource protection with use of the monument area.

Brian Murdoch:

We're up here on the South elks Road right inside the monument boundary and we want to talk a little bit about dispersed camping. Dispersed camping up here on the forest is one of the primary uses of the monument very popular it is a great place to do that lots of good flat places and places for tents and trailers and it's a lot of use from that type of activity from both locals and visitors from outside the region.

As we move into travel planning one of the things we're going to look at is the dispersed camping and opportunities and potentially impacts from that as well so the monument plan actually made the decision that we would take the first camping and designate those sites and each of those sites will need to be designated in the future. Currently the way that we manage it is that you can basically camp anywhere the 150 ft of a designated road, which is worked out great in the past and has been fine for that type of use, but with increased use we really

need to start managing the dispersed camping up here a little more than we have in the past.

So similar to travel planning will be taking a look at each of these designated dispersed campsites and essentially looking at the values and risks associated with each of those as well will be looking at how they might impact riparian areas of wildlife, how they might impact the objects and values of the monument and whether they are a campsite that is one that is a good place to camp so will be taking a look at each of those as we go through the route inventory as well and then eventually designating each of those sites and somehow marking those so that people will know where it's okay to camp and where it's not okay.

So just behind me here you can see one of our more popular sites in the monument out here in the meadow in the ponderosa great place very attractive place to camp and pretty much a good durable place to camp on, but it is in a meadow and all of our meadows are becoming campsites essentially and that's something we're going to need to make a decision on. Do we want a dispersed campsite in every meadow off of the road? Is something that we want to preserve some of these Meadows is to not have campsites? So those will be some of the decisions we'll be making as we move through this process that will also be asking the MAC for opinions on as well as the public in general.

Jacob Palma:

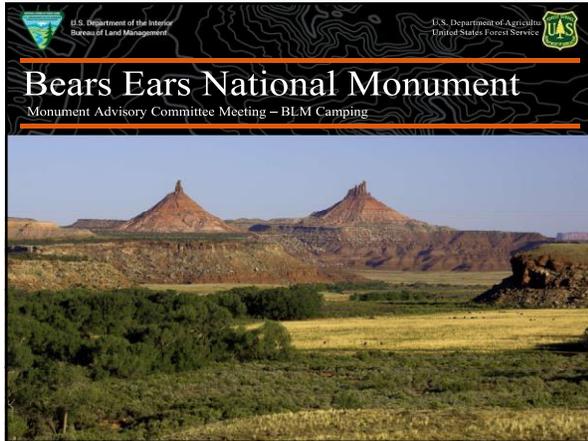
We're standing here at the Grand Flats area at the turnoff from highway 95 to Natural Bridges National Monument and the road that goes up to the Bears ears buttes themselves and the forest section of the Bears Ears national monument. Here in this location there's a lot of dispersed camping that happens along the road going up, and there's actually not an official campground within the boundaries of the Shash Jáa unit of Bears Ears National Monument to catch some of those users who would love to have a campground as kind of a base camp for them to go and experience the Trail of the Ancients and the rest of Bears Ears National Monument here, and also capture some of the overflow from Natural Bridges National Monument.

And here at Grand flats as you'll notice this is an area that was previously used as a borrow area as they constructed the highway 95 and the road out to Natural Bridges National Monument, so it's a previously disturbed area you'll still see some signs of gravel here and some old asphalt is still present here in this area as well. Another important feature of this site besides it being previously disturbed by you know highway

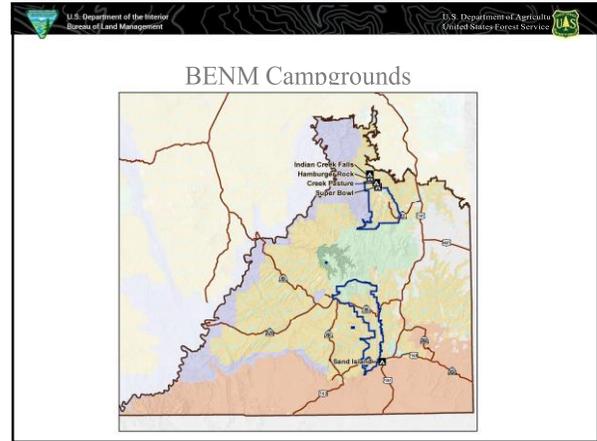
development and just an overall good location for a campground here in the in the opinion of juniper and just a good location within the monument you also you'll notice behind me you cannot see the Bears Ears buttes, and so this campground at Grand flats, if it were to be developed, would not impede that view shed of the bears ears buttes themselves.

So I think it's a good option for a potential campground for the Shash Jáa unit of Bear's Ears national monument and is up for discussion of is this a good spot for a campground? What would that campground development look like? And how could this be used as a as an area to facilitate a recreation base camp for folks coming to bears ears national monument?

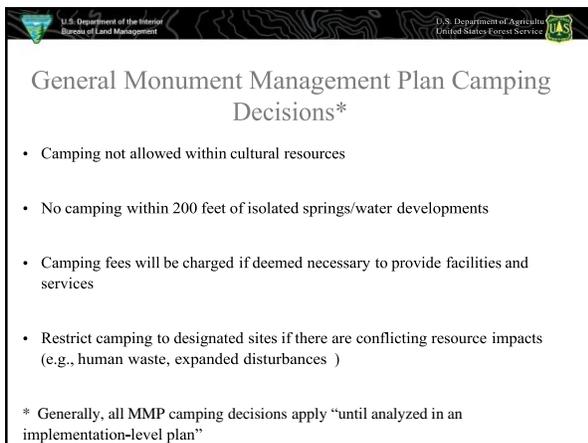
# Attachment I – CRRAMP Camping Management PowerPoint Slides



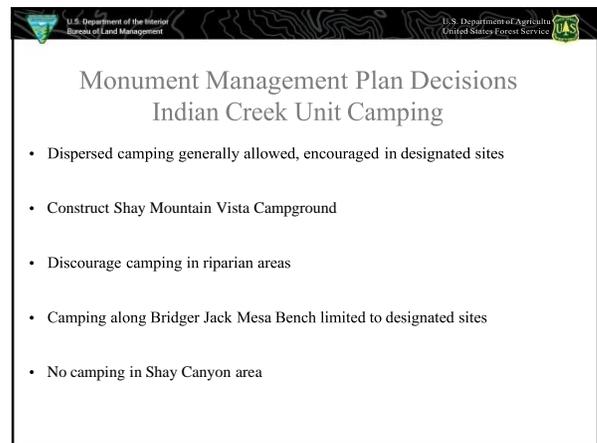
1



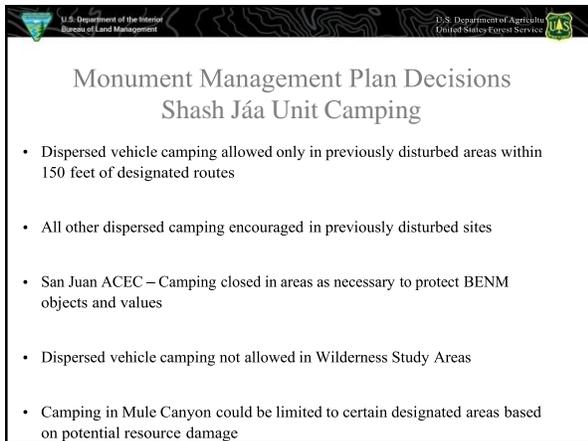
2



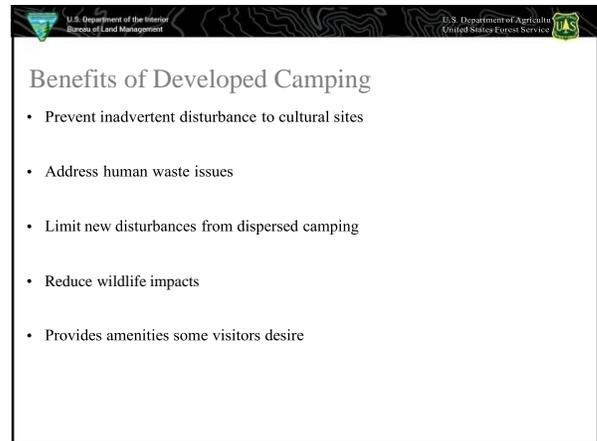
3



4



5



6

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Challenges with Developed Camping

- Increased maintenance and staffing needs

7

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Benefits of Dispersed Camping

- Highly sought-after backcountry experience
- Less formal development to maintain primitive setting

8

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Challenges with Dispersed Camping

- Increased likelihood of impacts to resources
  - Cultural resources
  - Competing recreation uses
  - Grazing
  - Sensitive wildlife species
- Potential increase of human waste issues

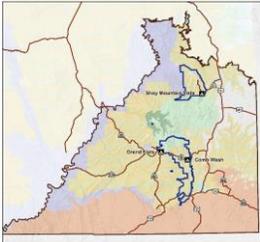
9

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Camping Management Strategies

- Economic development opportunities
- Focus development in front country areas
  - Grand Flats
  - Comb Wash
  - Shay Mountain Vista
  - Others?



10

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Developed Campgrounds Considerations

- What amenities should a developed campground have?
- What impacts to dispersed camping, visitation in general, and other resources do you envision happening if we develop campgrounds?
- Should BLM provide more developed campgrounds in the Monument and why?

11

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Dispersed Camping Considerations

- Do you know of any specific areas within the Monument that should consider restrictions on dispersed camping?
- What management actions can be taken by BLM/USFS to prevent impacts to other resources within the Monument as a result of dispersed camping?

12

## Attachment J – Virtual Field Tour: Indian Creek Unit Video Transcript

---

Virtual Field Tour - INDIAN CREEK UNIT

Jacob Palma:

Welcome to bears ears national monument the Indian Creek unit we're standing here at newspaper rock an icon of the Indian Creek unit here in bears ears approximately 200,000 people come and visit this site every single year whether they're coming to take a picture and look at this amazing rock art or coming to stop by on their way to the Needles District or they're on their way to go rock climbing or enjoy so the many great opportunities that are here within the Indian Creek corridor.

This is the first site that people drive by as they're coming into the Indian Creek corridor and so get a lot of people visiting, just a lot of visitation--people passing through to Canyonlands national Park.

We have the world-class recreation in this area we have a livestock grazing that happens here and in many important uses of the land and as visitation continues to increase in this area how do we best manage for the opportunities that people are seeking in this area and as a way to protect beautiful cultural resources like this and multiple uses that exist here in the Indian Creek area.

So some of the challenges that we have to deal with this heavy visitation and a site like this is how do we you know keep the toilet facilities clean how do we protect the cultural resources that are here and limit some of the graffiti or other things that potentially could happen at a site like this and I think newspaper rock really is the epitome of what a front country public use site in bears national monument should look like.

And so what is the type of education information and opportunities that we can provide at this site so that folks know how to appropriately visit different sites within bear's ears national monument, whether they're cultural sites or recreation areas, paleontological sites or if they're interacting on trails with livestock, or other uses of the landscape. So using this as a focal area within the monument to really bring people together to understand how to appropriately visit bears ears national monument.

Misti Haines:

So right now I'm standing at Donnelly which is a great place to talk about one of the other really popular uses at Indian Creek which is climbing! So you see the fantastic crack climbing behind me these giant wingate sandstone walls these huge cracks going through it; if you talk to climbers from anywhere across the globe they're going to have heard of Indian Creek. They love to come down here and climb it's especially busy in the spring and in the fall.

One of the challenges that that brings is that we do get a lot of use here so in this particular spot, the BLM has responded to that use by creating a parking lot. There's also a bathroom and a little bit of interpretive material to help climbers make better choices about what they're going to do here at this point. In an early busy November morning every single spot out here is going to be full. The reason why we feel like this is a good choice is Indian Creek is a has a pretty windy narrow road--there aren't a lot of good places to park on the shoulder--so we thought why don't we go ahead and just concentrate this use here. We have a lot of great partnerships and I want to show you one of those right over here.

This is a great example of one of our most important partnerships out of Indian Creek the Access Fund Rim Fee, Friends of Indian Creek and various other groups come out every spring for an event that they call "a week in the creek"; they also sometimes come out in the fall. What they do is they take all of our social trails that could be skittering up the hillside--causing a lot of erosion in this chimney soil which is very fragile and tends to erode really quickly as soon as that water hits it--and they build these incredible trails so you can see behind me just the craftsmanship the quality of the work--they're using big rocks! This is all built and held in place by the materials that you can see on site which is awesome.

The other cool thing about it is when I was standing at the parking lot I couldn't see any of this so as big as some of these stone structures are they almost completely into the landscape between the way they're sited and the way they use just these natural materials so it's a really incredible feat it just in and of itself but also what a partnership and what value to have this amount of erosion control service to the climbing community come out of just strictly volunteer work.

Jason Byrd:

One of things visitors really appreciate about Indian Creek is the opportunity to camp in a unique landscape, and under a dark sky with countless stars. Dispersed camping can be found in the

northern portions of the main corridor and in many of the side canyons of Indian Creek. The BLM also manages and maintains three developed campgrounds within the corridor. This is Superbowl Campground.

It's the only developed campground within Bears Ears National Monument and has recently been expanded. Superbowl campground now has thirty-seven first-come, first-serve campsites at \$15 per night, and one group site at \$65 per night. the group site can be reserved on rec.gov. The fees collected here are designated to be used at the campgrounds in Indian Creek for maintenance, amenities and ranger presence to enhance the visitor experience. There is potential future development within the campground such as shade structures for exposed campsites and turning the center of this turnaround loop into a slackline area or pollinator garden.

There are also five bathrooms and a newly constructed hiking trail to a mesa-top providing striking views of the Indian Creek corridor and Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. The three developed campgrounds in Indian Creek are very beneficial for the area they help protect cultural sites and reduce impacts to native vegetation, soil and wildlife. The toilets located throughout the corridor also provide for disposal human waste which help protect the sensitive riparian areas that are so important for the Indian Creek experience. As we move forward with cultural and recreation plans for the Indian Creek unit, issues and opportunities related to camping will definitely need to be addressed.

## Attachment K – Virtual Field Tour: Shash Jaa Unit Part 2, Butler Wash Video Transcript

---

Virtual Field Tour - SHASH JAA UNIT PT II

Jacob Palma:

Welcome to Butler Wash. We're going to take you on a little trip today down Butler Wash: the heart of the Shash Jaa Unit of Bears Ears National Monument. Today we're going to visit a few sites and talk about some of the challenges and opportunities that we face here along Butler Wash, which really is a back country experience for visitors coming to this portion of BENM, and what a back country experience means is visitors should expect minimal development as they come and recreate here.

There's not a lot of people that they'll encounter, there's not a lot of water and amenities like that out here so how can we best educate folks as they come out here and recreate and experience this landscape so that they're best prepared for what they're going to encounter.

And when we say minimal development what does that look like moving forward as we strive to find the best management strategy and approach for handling the visitors that are coming here to the Butler Wash area. And so today we'll visit a few sites like the Wolfman Panel and Monarch Cave and have a conversation of what the this minimal development may look like as we try to tackle the challenges that we that we face here in Butler Wash.

Misti Haines:

We're on the Butler Wash road at the monarch trailhead. So we're about to head into monarch and I'm actually looking to talk to about some issues that are specific to this particular site but on the way there we want to talk about some general issues that we are having on the Butler Wash road and some of our proposed solutions.

We've had some human waste issues. There are short hikes but there's a lot of them all in a row people like to mix and match and do several things during one day and you're pretty far from a toilet. So temporary solution is we partnered with Friends of Cedar Mesa and they have put temporary port-o-lets out here. We've had good response and we get a lot of use of the port-o-lets--we actually track that--and so far they've done a great job of keeping them clean and providing some messaging about good etiquette while you're out here.

...

After great little canyon hike we've arrived at monarch cave. So you can see behind me why the site is so popular. It's an incredibly intact set of structures in a spectacular canyon setting. This is a place that a lot of people want to go to and so we're trying to make decisions about whether to make this a focal point that we make easier for people to get to there's some concern about that because quite frankly anytime that you increase visitation to a site you may be inviting deterioration and problems on the other hand what happens out here a lot is because we don't have these places marked and we're not directing people, we have visitors try to find monarch cave and they end up in a different canyon and a more sensitive site perhaps, so it's a balance--it's just always going to be a balance.

At this point the balance is, if we bring more people here, can we make this visitor ready if we do does that help them protect that other site that those people are then not going to? So what does visitor ready mean well in the case of monarch cave we think this already might mean that people stay here. So when you look at monarch cave you're noticing those beautiful walls behind me that's what makes it spectacular you can even see in this fantastic historic drawing from an early expedition out here, this is what people were looking at back then too. When you go up closer into the site there's really not a safe way to approach no matter if you go in from the left side, which is very steep, or from the right side where you may be stepping on subtle archaeological features that are hard to see until your feet are already on them, You're potentially damaging the site or putting yourself in danger.

In order to avoid those issues we'd like to meet we'd like to make it more attractive to stay right here this is something that we're going to be considering and this is the kind of approach that we might be taking at different sites. Other sites might be made visitor ready by getting closer to them but say making a more defined path of travel for people so they're not going over sensitive features or possibly displacing artifacts.

Jared Lundell:

So Here we are at Wolfman panel. It's one of the neat rock art sites along the Butler Wash road here it's one of our more heavily visited sites here along Butler Wash. it's a late Puebloan site so we're thinking more like Pueblo 2 to Pueblo 3

so around 1100 AD to 1200 AD is kind of the time frame for this site.

One of the unique things about this site is the Wolfman figure and where it gets its name from so you can see the anthropomorphic figure in the in the rock art panel and you can see that it kind of has claws and it's also got a lot of muscular buildup, and you can see that. And that's kind of unusual where around here we often get like trapezoidal figures and stuff like that--so kind of a unique thing about this rock art panel.

Something that's kind of interesting about this panel is we've already worked on this site to guide people through the site so they can get the best experience they can but also have a light touch on the site. You can see some of the bullet holes behind me probably, and in some of the other shots so you know this is old graffiti and old vandalism. We've noted that this site has been recorded multiple times and it was recorded as early as 1999 and those bullet holes were here then, so we know that the bullet holes are pretty old here. Vandalism is a thing that is occurring. We tend not to get vandalism like this--very apparent and purposeful vandalism for lack of a better way to put it--but we are kind of dealing with inadvertent vandalism and people not being on sites where they should be.

One thing that we're trying to do is--you can see the stanchions back here and along this site--we're trying to kind of guide people through these sites so they cause as minimal damage as possible, because really what we get these days is inadvertent damage to sites. So these are ways we try to keep people from sites from damaging the sites. One thing we've talked about here is how do we want to interpret these sites these are back country sites we don't want to do really heavy-handed interpretation here but we've talked about would it be good to have small signs here--unobtrusive not necessarily in the way of the site--but signs that people would see they would talk a little bit about etiquette tell a little bit about the importance of these types of sites to tribes and talk a little bit about the archeology itself and how we understand it.

## Attachment L – Virtual Field Tour: Front Country Focal Areas, Trail of the Ancients Video Transcript

---

Virtual Field Tour - FRONT COUNTRY FOCAL AREAS

Jacob Palm:

Bears Ears National Monument has some incredible back country experiences where adventurous visitors can experience world-class recreation and wonderful cultural resources. However Bears Ears also provides some spectacular front country opportunities, which is where a large portion of the monument's visitors should and will spend their time. Front country means that the sites are easily accessible with vehicles, and there's going to be some forms of amenities like toilets and generally more encounters with other visitors as well.

Some examples of sites that fit this mold are sites like this at Sand Island. Although not in the monument specifically, this is an area with high potential to capture visitors and an effort to provide some education and some interpretation as they venture out to the rest of Bears Ears National Monument. Some other places that will visit today are the Butler Wash developed site and the Mule Canyon roadside site, but we would like to discuss further what some other potential sites might be and what they might look like as we try to improve management of the visitors coming to Bears Ears National Monument.

Misti Haines:

So we're currently standing at the trailhead for the Butler Wash developed site. This site is near the head of Butler Wash which is the long wash that follows Comb Ridge on the east side, north-south this site is just North of highway 95--you might even be able to hear it in the background and actually the site was excavated and partially stabilized as an off-site mitigation for it related to the construction of highway 95.

There's a short hike here it goes mostly through the slight pinion juniper forest and then it goes up onto the slick Rock. This site already has a large parking lot, it has a bathroom, it has some interpretation signs, it has a register box.

We think this is a good place to do a little bit more interpretation, capture people's interest when they come into the monument, tell them a little bit more about the opportunities that they have here and maybe most importantly to interact with them a little bit about how to best visit

archaeological sites and cultural sites within bears there's national monuments to make sure that we are minimizing any damage that they might do visit with respect, visit responsibly while they're out here.

Jared Lundell:

So here we are at the Mule Canyon developed site. This site was originally excavated and restored in the late 1970s. This is a late Pueblo II site, there's a kiva here, there's a room block here and there's also a tower here. There's some kind of neat features where some of the rooms are connected to the kiva and the tower is connected to the Kiva via tunnel, so kind of neat opportunities for interpretation here. It's a really well stabilized and restored site to talk a lot about how people would have lived during the ancestral Puebloan period so mainly kind of want to update interpretation here and talk about what the tribe to want to talk about here it also is a nice focal area and kind of entry point into Bears Ears National Monument.

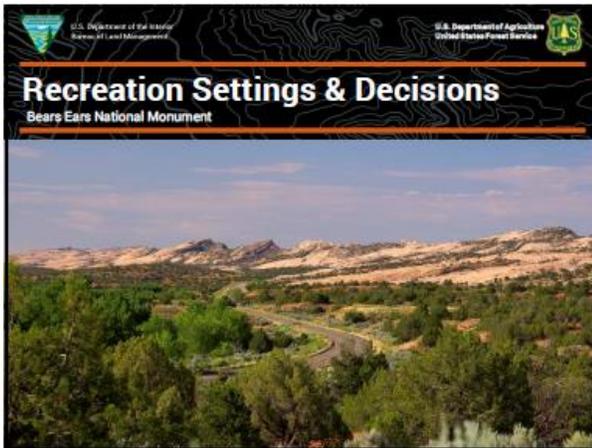
There's an old map sign back there that still has the old Highway 666 and the Blue Mountain Ski Area, places like that don't even exist anymore. So it's in need of interpretation since the 1980s so this is something we'd really like to do at this site we have a couple of partnerships that might help us with that we have a nonprofit called SCIARC that's going to help us do some digital documentation of the site, doing lidar and photogrammetry of the structures on the site that could lead to possibly some online interpretation and kind of increase our presence of BENM and particularly this site online a little bit to teach people about the importance of this area to the tribes.

So that would be really helpful we also want to just improve the interpretation here you know we've talked about the options of maybe even getting rid of this kiosk itself and kind of putting more interpretive signs at the different archaeological features on the site

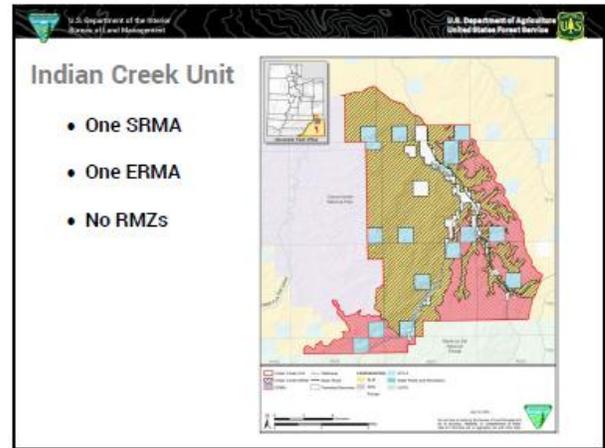
Another thing with this site is there's a paved parking lot here from the 1970s and there's a bathroom here there's also paved walkways. It's generally ADA accessible here and something we would like to improve on the site is just the accessibility of this site. Some of that is that digital documentation that we were talking about but also just making the site really easily accessible as a front country site here on the Trail of the Ancients Recreation Management Zone so this is a focal area and another kind of major front country site with pretty serious development and we want to keep the interpretation here and have

this as kind of a welcoming area to Bears Ears National Monument.

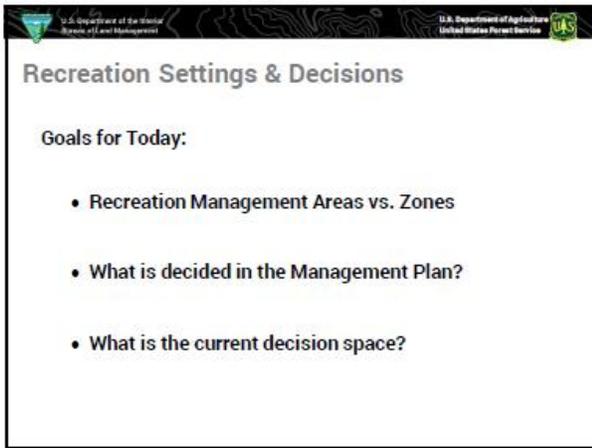
Attachment M – Recreation Settings and Decisions PowerPoint Slides



1



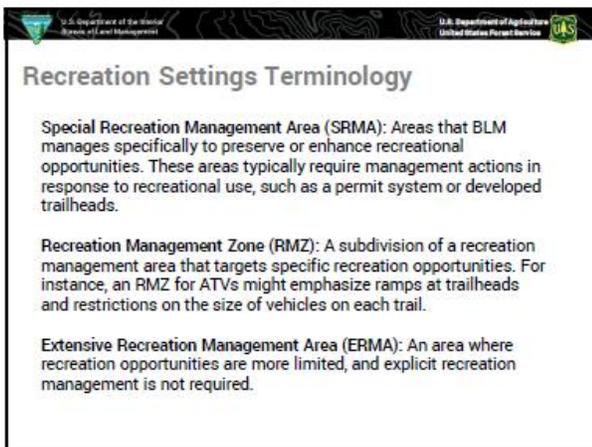
4



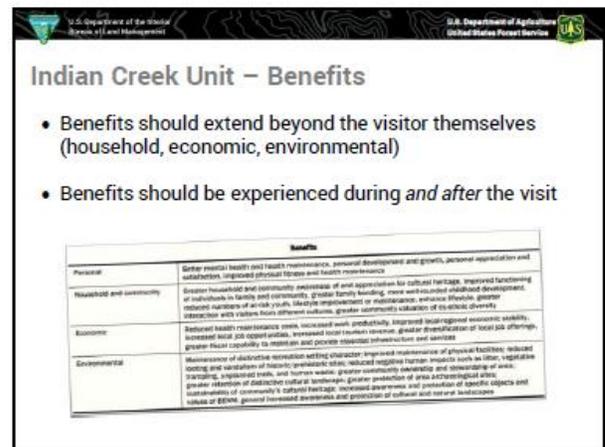
2



5



3



6

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Indian Creek Unit – Activities & Experiences

- What do we want people to do out there?

Primary Activities		
Hike climbing	Over viewing	Education and interpretation
Cultural site visitation	Hiking	Heritage tourism
Camping	Engineering	

Experiences	
<b>Visitor</b>	
Achievement/education	Developing skills and abilities, gaining a greater sense of self-confidence, being able to tell others about the trip
Autonomy/leadership	Enjoying exploring on one's own
Family/group togetherness	Enjoying closeness of friends and family, group affiliation and togetherness, meeting new people with similar interests, and participation in group outdoor events
Learning and teaching	Learning and teaching others about the specific cultural history of the area, current cultural uses and spiritual significance of the area, the values and values of BLM, and outdoor resource protection skills
Enjoying nature	Enjoying the total sensory (sight, sound, and smell) experience of a natural landscape enjoying easy access to natural landscapes
Interpretation	Enjoying ability to be more contemplative, reflecting on one's character and personal values, thinking about and sharing one's spiritual values, contemplating human's relationship with the land
Exercise/physical fitness	Enjoying physical exercise
Enjoying personal/social/global processes	Relaxing or reducing stress, managing everyday responsibilities, enjoying solitude, isolation, and independence, enjoying an escape from concerns of society

7

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Indian Creek Unit – Settings (Operational)

- What visitor services are provided? Where?
- Should we build new roads or trail systems?
- What restrictions are in place?
- What are the **changes** (decision space)?

OPERATIONAL – Conditions Created by Management and Controls over Recreation Use		
	Existing	Desired
Public access	<b>Prohibitive to Permissive:</b> Access ranges from full and unrestricted to 2000 passenger vehicles	<b>No change</b>
Visitor services	<b>Prohibitive to Permissive:</b> Visitor services range from no services to full services (interpretive, information materials, shuttle, maintenance, and activities and staff periodically present)	<b>No change:</b> additional Permissive level visitor services must be provided in the highway corridor area
Management controls	<b>Prohibitive:</b> Some regulatory and ethics signs, moderate use restrictions (e.g. trailging, timber access) in some areas	<b>Prohibitive:</b> Plans, regulations and ethics signs, moderate use restrictions and directives in sensitive areas

10

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Indian Creek Unit – Settings (Physical)

- How much development?
- Where do toilets go?
- How many campgrounds?
- What are the **changes** (decision space)?

PHYSICAL – Quality of the Landscape		
	Existing	Desired
Permeability	<b>Prohibitive to Permissive:</b> Access ranges from more than 0.5 mile from recreational routes (prohibitive) to within a 0.5 mile of recreational routes	<b>No change</b>
Subsistence	<b>Prohibitive to Permissive:</b> Natural landscapes range from undisturbed areas (prohibitive) to easily visible (permissive) of the natural landscape in particular modified but configurations don't overpower the natural landscape	<b>No change</b>
Visitor facilities	<b>Prohibitive to Permissive:</b> Some areas have no facilities (prohibitive) while others have campgrounds, toilets, waterpoints, tables, and parking areas	<b>No change except:</b> that additional foodservices and rest room visitor facilities should be provided in the highway corridor area and additional Permissive facilities (restrooms, tables, waterpoints) should be provided in Colofornio Wash area

8

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Shas Jaa Unit

- One SRMA
- No ERMAs
- Eight RMZs

11

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Indian Creek Unit – Settings (Social)

- How many other people do you see?
- Are they in large groups? Are there group size limits?
- Is use allocated to create more solitude?
- What are the **changes** (decision space)?

SOCIAL – Quality Associated with Use		
	Existing	Desired
Average solitude	<b>Prohibitive to Permissive:</b> Contacts range from frequent (more than 8 encounters per hour) to none (no encounters) in some areas and 30 or more encounters per hour in some Permissive in other areas	<b>Allow for increased visitor use (solitude for Permissive and Permissive) to specific sites if necessary.</b>
Average group size	<b>Prohibitive to Permissive:</b> Group sizes range from fewer than 3 people per group (prohibitive) to some areas and 10 or more per group (Permissive) in other areas	<b>Allow for increased visitor use (solitude for Permissive and Permissive) to specific sites if necessary.</b>
Evidence of use	<b>Prohibitive to Permissive:</b> Evidence of use ranges from no observation to visible tracks and marks of people (prohibitive) to small signs of observation (permissive) where surface vegetation is showing signs of being used (Permissive) or signs of being used (Permissive) for horses	<b>No change</b>

9

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

## Trail of the Ancients RMZ – Desired Settings

\*Map only displays SR 95 (north corridor). TOA RMZ also follows Hwy 163

12

Trail of the Ancients RMZ – Desired Settings

- BLM/USFS and MAC Decision Space: How to achieve changes to Desired Settings as defined in the MMP?

MMP Changes to Desired Setting	Possible Ways to Achieve Change to Setting (BLM Decision Space/MAC Input Needed)
Developed campgrounds and visitor contact station	• ?????
Provide more on-site Interpretive Materials	• ?????
Staff Present on-site Frequently	• ?????
Allow for Increased Use	• ?????

13

Trail of the Ancients RMZ Case Study

16

Trail of the Ancients RMZ – Desired Settings

- BLM/USFS and MAC Decision Space: How to achieve changes to Desired Settings as defined in the MMP?

MMP Changes to Desired Setting	Possible Ways to Achieve Change to Setting (BLM Decision Space/MAC Input Needed)
Developed campgrounds and visitor contact station	<b>FOCAL AREAS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attractive</li> <li>• Informative/Interpretive</li> <li>• Ethics Information</li> <li>• "Spend" the Visitor's Time</li> </ul>
Provide more on-site Interpretive Materials	
Staff Present on-site Frequently	
Allow for Increased Use	

14

Trail of the Ancients RMZ Case Study

Mule Canyon Developed Site as a Focal Area?

MMP Changes to Desired Setting	Possible Ways to Achieve Desired Setting (BLM Decision Space/MAC Input Needed)
Provide more on-site Interpretive Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add additional kiosks?</li> <li>• Publications like brochures?</li> <li>• Consider digital interpretive materials?</li> </ul>
Staff Present Frequently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire more Park Rangers?</li> <li>• Emphasize frontcountry patrols over backcountry? What are the trade-offs?</li> </ul>
Allow for Increased Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enlarge Parking Area?</li> <li>• Redesign parking area to be more efficient?</li> <li>• Make more "viewing platforms"?</li> </ul>

17

Trail of the Ancients RMZ Case Study

Mule Canyon Developed Site

15

Outside of RMZs

18

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

### Outside of RMZs (Generally Backcountry)

MMP Changes to Desired Setting	Possible Ways to Achieve Change to Setting (BLM Decision Space/MAC Input Needed)
Allowing for increased visitation	• ?????
Monitoring for impacts	• ?????
Limiting access to sites if needed	• ?????
Increased onsite visitor information	• ?????
Clearly posted rules and regulations	• ?????

19

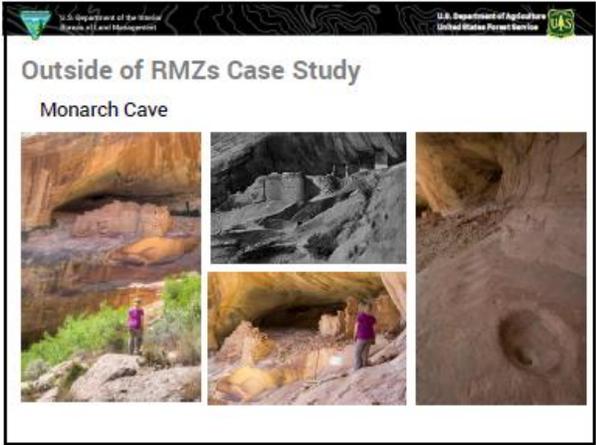
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

### Outside of RMZs (Generally Backcountry)

MMP Changes to Desired Setting	Possible Ways to Achieve Change to Setting (BLM Decision Space/MAC Input Needed)
Allowing for increased visitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create Focal Areas?</li> <li>• Improve Trailheads?</li> </ul>
Monitoring for impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Stewardship Program/Partnerships?</li> <li>• More Archeologists and LEOs in-house?</li> </ul>
Limiting access to sites if needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the thresholds/triggers?</li> <li>• What does it look like? Viewing platforms?</li> </ul>
Increased onsite visitor information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop trailheads and signs?</li> <li>• Ammo boxes?</li> <li>• Digital interpretation?</li> </ul>
Clearly posted rules and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus at ends of Butler Wash Road?</li> <li>• Put directly at trailheads? On site?</li> </ul>

22



20

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

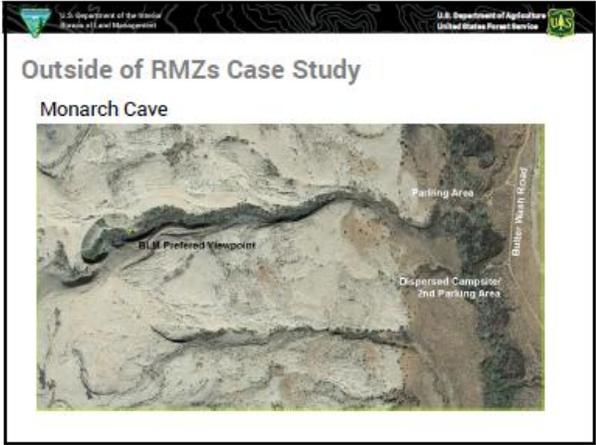
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

### Recreational Settings & Decisions

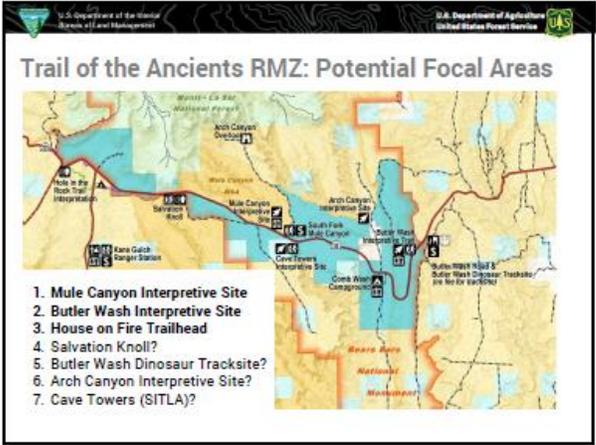
#### Recommendations

- Should the BLM and USFS keep using the "Focal Area" concept? Everywhere, or only some RMZs?
- If so, what Focal Areas should be included? Which Focal Areas should be prioritized?

23



21



24

## Recreational Settings & Decisions

### Recommendations

- Should the BLM and USFS keep using the "Focal Area" concept? Everywhere, or only some RMZs?
- If so, what Focal Areas should be included? Which Focal Areas should be prioritized?
- Do you have any additional recommendations for the RMZs or potential Focal Areas that we have discussed today?