

**"Mayes, Eric" <emayes@blm.gov>**

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**From:** "Mayes, Eric" <emayes@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Thu Jul 13 2017 12:41:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Courtney, Michael" <mcourtney@blm.gov>  
Holly Crawford <hcrawford@blm.gov>, Lisa Cresswell  
<lcresswell@blm.gov>, Codie Martin <cjmartin@blm.gov>, June  
**CC:** Shoemaker <jshoemaker@blm.gov>, Timothy Murphy  
<tmurphy@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Questions about Craters of the Moon National Monument and  
Preserve Management Plan Amendment  
**Attachments:** 20170713\_DepartmentalBriefingPaperCratersROD\_evm.docx

Take a look at this edited version before I send it to Ken Frederick and others. My goal is to get this to WO by 2 mtn, 4 eastern, so there is not time to nit-pick or to do back-and-forths.

Thanks for your quick look.  
Eric

On Thu, Jul 13, 2017 at 10:51 AM, Courtney, Michael <mcourtney@blm.gov> wrote:

Eric,

June asked me to forward this information to you. The 124 AUMs that would be removed are largely inaccessible due to topography and haven't been used in over a decade. In addition, there are 22 allotments in the Monument.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Crawford, Holly <hcrawford@blm.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 13, 2017 at 10:42 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Questions about Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve  
Management Plan Amendment  
**To:** Michael Courtney <mcourtney@blm.gov>

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**From:** Crawford, Holly <hcrawford@blm.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, May 11, 2017 at 3:52 PM  
**Subject:** Questions about Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve  
Management Plan Amendment  
**To:** Thomas Bartholomew <tbarthol@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Codie Martin <cjmartin@blm.gov>, Dan Patten <david\_patten@blm.gov>, June  
Shoemaker <jshoemaker@blm.gov>, Jonathan Beck <jmbeck@blm.gov>, Michael Courtney  
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In Alternative C (the Preferred Alternative):

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I hope this helps with your questions. Please let us know if you need anything further.

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Thanks!

Holly Crawford  
Monument Manager | Assistant Field Manager  
Craters of the Moon NM | Shoshone Field Office  
208.732.7288  
fax 208.732.7317

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District Manager  
Twin Falls District  
(208) 736 - 2355

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Eric Mayes

NEPA Specialist

BLM Idaho State Office

208-373-4050 (o) 208-401-6999 (c)

[emayes@blm.gov](mailto:emayes@blm.gov)

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**"Courtney, Michael" <mcourtney@blm.gov>**

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**From:** "Courtney, Michael" <mcourtney@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Thu Jul 13 2017 12:46:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
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Holly Crawford  
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I will add a word about the Court already giving us two extensions. Is that correct?

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## **DATA CALL ON PROPOSED RECORDS OF DECISION AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT DECISION DOCUMENTS**

**Date:** July 13, 2017

**To:** James E. Cason, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior

**Through:** Katharine S. MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary  
Land and Minerals Management

**From:** Michael D. Nedd, Acting Director of the Bureau of Land Management

**Bureau/Office:** Bureau of Land Management – Shoshone Field Office, Idaho

**Title of Document:** Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Approved Plan  
Amendment and Record of Decision

### **ONE PARAGRAPH SUMMARY OF PROPOSED DECISION**

The BLM has completed the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Plan (MMP) Amendment/Final EIS to determine the appropriate management of livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands within the Monument (approximately 275,100 acres). This MMP Amendment/Final EIS analyzes management options for the BLM-managed portions of the Monument that were not previously addressed by the 2007 MMP and will amend that plan. Among the most important land use planning level decisions the BLM is making through this plan amendment are the number of Animal Unit Months (AUMs) to be allocated for livestock grazing, what lands are made available for livestock grazing, and what protections are in place for Greater sage-grouse habitat.

### **NEED AND DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE**

This Record of Decision is responding to a District Court order for the BLM to complete this land use plan amendment by July 31, 2017.

In 2008, the Idaho-based conservation group Western Watersheds Project filed suit in U.S. District Court alleging deficiencies on conservation of Greater sage-grouse in 16 BLM resource management plans, including the 2007 Craters of the Moon MMP. In 2011, the Court found that the environmental impact statement (EIS) supporting the Monument Plan 1) did not consider an alternative under which no livestock grazing would be authorized or any alternatives where grazing levels would be reduced, 2) did not consider measures for sage-grouse conservation, and 3) did not discuss the BLM's policy on special-status species and the BLM National strategy for conserving sage-grouse habitat. The Proposed Monument Management Plan and EIS addresses these three

issues, analyzing no-grazing, reduced-grazing alternatives, and develops sage-grouse conservation measures for BLM-managed lands within the Monument.

## **POSITIONS OF AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS**

The Field Manager and Monument manager involved the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes throughout the planning process. Neither tribe expressed concerns with the Proposed Plan Amendment.

On May 24, 2017, the State Director notified the Governor of Idaho about the proposed amendment and requested that they complete a consistency review within 60 days (by July 17, 2017). We have received no response from the Governor to date. Livestock permittees and local counties are supportive of the Proposed Plan Amendment.

On May 26, 2017, the field office published and distributed notices announcing availability of the proposed amendment and FEIS. This initiated a 30-day public protest period which expired on June 19, 2017. The BLM received two protests from Western Watersheds Project and WildLands Defense. A BLM team is midway through the process of resolving these protests as of the date of this document.

## **OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

***[Include: public lands affected, revenue, and jobs]***

Socioeconomic analysis indicates no negative economic impact from the Proposed Plan Amendment. The Proposed Plan Amendment maintains 99% of current livestock grazing levels in 22 grazing allotments in the Monument. The current plan allocates 38,187 AUMs. The Proposed Plan Amendment allocates 37,792 AUMs. Of this difference of 395 AUMs, 124 have not been used in the past because lands are inaccessible by livestock due to topography, 155 are now outside the Monument due to allotment boundary adjustments, and 116 are due to corrections to the authorized AUMs calculated in the original MMP.

Lands in this area provide few private sector jobs aside from the livestock grazing industry, as the Monument is closed to mineral material entry and has little potential for saleable minerals.

## **ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DECISION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVE                      \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVE

COMMENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
James E. Cason