



# Bears Ears National Monument

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Monument Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Agenda

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
8:00 a.m.	Online meeting logistics	<b>Rachel Wootton</b> – BLM Canyon Country District Public Affairs Officer
8:15 a.m.	Welcome	<b>Nicollee Gaddis-Wyatt</b> – BLM Canyon Country District Manager <b>Ryan Nehl</b> – USDA Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor
8:30 a.m.	MAC Overview Discussion of last meeting and committee work/review the agenda	<b>Jake Palma</b> – BLM Monticello Field Manager <b>Regina Lopez-Whitskunk</b> - MAC Chair
9:00 a.m.	Planning updates, including overview of scoping process	<b>Jake Palma</b> –BLM Monticello Field Manager
9:30 a.m.	Break	
9:45 a.m.	Identification and discussion of potential issues to consider in management planning process	<b>BLM and USDA FS Staff</b>
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 p.m.	Public comment period	Members of the public (sign up will be provided for those interested in providing oral comments)
2:15 p.m.	Discussion/consideration of public comments	<b>Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk</b> - MAC Chair
2:30 p.m.	Break	
2:45 p.m.	Final thoughts/wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other MAC member discussion topics</li><li>• Dates and topics for next meeting</li></ul>	<b>MAC Chair</b> <b>Nicollee Gaddis-Wyatt</b> – BLM Canyon Country District Manager

		<b>Ryan Nehl</b> – USDA Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn	All

Meeting notes. The meeting started at 8:05am.

**Introductions and Welcome:**

- The committee completed introductions starting with BLM Utah State Director Greg Sheehan. Greg discussed that we appreciated that the public was attending and interested in commenting. He thanked Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk (Chair) for offering to be the chair. He also mentioned the retirement of Gary Torres, former Designated Federal Official.

**MAC Overview:**

- BLM Monticello Field Manager Jake Palma provided an overview of where we are in the planning process and scoping (60 days starting end of August) comments end October 31, also discussed the Federal Agency engagement with cooperating agencies and the Bears Ears Commission (BEC).
  - Kelly Pehrson (Committee Member) had a question about state involvement for cooperating agencies, Jake noted that a number of state organizations were at the cooperating agency meeting. Kelly also asked about scoping meeting locations, why there wasn't a meeting planned in Monticello. Jake noted that there wasn't a meeting in Monticello because there will be one in Blanding which is a short drive.
- Jake mentioned opportunities for the Monument Advisory Committee (MAC) members to provide input on the planning effort. He also shared that the Federal agencies would work to incorporate comments from MAC, BEC, and IDTs.
- Regina mentioned difficulty of reaching out to constituencies, especially Tribes, with two-week timeframe. Regina mentioned BEC and that articulates with planning phases and how they provide input. Mention tribal members may not understand where they fit within the process.

**Planning Updates:**

- USDA Forest Service District Ranger Michael Engelhart shared a short introduction.
- Chad Ricklefs provides a short introduction on the analysis of the management situation (AMS) for the project.
- Matt Petersen provided a short introduction on AMS and managing for objects and values and strategies how we manage the landscape in the future.
- Michael a bit further on AMS and the type of input we are looking for from the MAC on this and that we have these meeting to learn what we may be missing or need to look at a different way.
- Michael asked if MAC had any preference on topics and which resources to focus on as we discuss important resource for the plan. The meeting started with cultural resources.
  - Michael discussed different parts of cultural resources that we need to consider for management and stressed that different constituencies might have different

perspectives on how to manage these resources in the BENM. Asked for the MAC to share concerns and/or thought about the management of cultural resources.

- Regina mentioned the concept of cultural landscapes and including more than the archaeological resources, she mentioned plants specifically as part of the landscape. Also brought up the idea of filling in gaps in our understanding.
- Angelo Baca (committee member) mentioned the confidentiality of certain types of information and asked how we've gone about getting that info from appropriate resources.
- Eve Tallman (Committee Member) mentioned partnerships with Access Fund and Friends of Cedar Mesa and how incorporate that into the plan. Also noted that certain sensitive sites might need to have certain "concessionaires" only allowed to take people to places or working with partnerships
- Mark Boshell (Committee Member) mentioned it's good to have an analysis of these issues and to learn more about how resources might be impacted and if they are and what are the real impacts, ie is recreation the issue or vandalism or otherwise.
- Michael answered that we are still gathering data and we have started thinking about how we might restrict access or in certain ways increase access with better information at certain sites.
- Matt Peterson (SWCA) discussed how those involved in the planning effort take information and apply to the plan. Talked a little bit about sensitive information and how we address that and bring those into the plan and protect them. Mentioned that in certain cases we may need to allow access to traditional uses. How do we include these management actions in the plan, what is appropriate, how do we implement these plan ideas, and how we work on co-management at all these levels.
- Regina mentioned areas of concern and the importance of including traditional knowledge with scientific data and how to let things rest, talked about example of bird nesting periods. Talked about THPOs of the Tribes and how they provided information of the BEC plan. Mentioned how people/tribal members feel they can't/shouldn't participate at these meetings.
- Denyce White (MAC Member) brought up how these are important issues and how we handle these and how we will continue to handle these issues throughout the planning process. Denyce brought up education of people in terms of BENM, cultural resources (in the broad sense), talked about education in San Juan County schools. Does the public understand the complex histories of the tribes. Denyce also mentioned the climber stewards and having people out on the landscape teaching people on the landscape about importance of place.
- Jake requested going back to a concept Regina brought up as far as resting places/areas for certain times.
- Regina mentioned how traditional knowledge allows things places to take time to rest over time in opposition to bringing in people to support mother nature or certain places, may want to allow things to rest. Talked about allowing species to rest as part of modern science. Talked a bit about finding overlap/similarity between different cultures.
- Jake said thanks and he mentioned that this was a good conversation.

- Angelo provided feedback on this topic of letting things rest, not looking at things as shutdown. Mentioned the large landscape of BENM and soundscapes, ATVs. Also mentioned Devil's tower and the June voluntary closure. Angelo mentioned working together between agencies and THPOs and taking time. Also mentioned the intangible and thinking larger than specific resources on the ground.
- Mark mentioned National Parks and high visitation numbers in light of the concept of this rest and what does this look like with expected increases in visitation. The pull of the national monument concept to bring people to places. Mark mentioned rangeland health assessments and grazing adjustments and other regulations help minimize impacts. Also talked about educating the public and recreate responsibly, respectful visitation. Also brought up the need for law enforcement to enforce rules and regulation and supporting this with money.
- Eve said thanks for bringing up education and law enforcement. Also brought up soundscapes, brought up helicopter tours and how the BLM/NPS/USFS have limited regulatory framework for such things. Also brought up loud vehicles. Asked what kind of authority we have at this plan to manage these items.
- Zeb mentioned how they work on resting allotments on a regular basis.
- Regina and Jake about conversation make a formal recommendation on the concept around rest. Regina posed an idea for a formal recommendation on rest basically further exploration of this concept in the plan and look at how to implement it. Zeb question of whether this just for cultural resources, Regina clarified yes. Mark questioned is this just less use, but Regina felt that this is different/distinct giving something total no use/recreation. Brooks asked for more questions about how this works on the landscape. MAC members brought up Devil's Tower again. Mark mentioned that some of this already having the idea of seasonal closures in the plan and whether we need something toward this.

**Committee Recommendation 1: Explore opportunities for resting (including limited/no visitation) to reduce impacts on public lands, specifically related to cultural resource management. This exploration should include time periods of rest and defining what areas are in distress.**

Name and Category	Vote: yes, no, abstain	
Mark	No	
Brooks	No	
Eve	Yes	
Davina	Yes	
Regina	Yes	
Denyce	Yes	
Zeb	No	

Adam	Not present	
Angelo	Yes	
Kelly	Not present	

- There was discussion about quorum and consensus. Jake and BLM Public Affairs Officer Rachel Wootton clarified that 8 is enough for a quorum and then that we can look at this as a recommendation from 5 of 8 as a majority, and therefore is a recommendation or just look at this as a recommendation from 5. Either way recommendations and the discussion are valuable.
- The committee continued to discuss recreation.
  - There were follow-up questions from Eve about distinctions between areas versus actual route designations. Jake clarified that we are making area designation as a part of resource management planning.
  - Zeb Dalton (MAC Member) and Kelly have further questions. Kelly mentioned that he is generally in support of limited to existing/designated routes. Zeb brought up particular issues where routes that are not open in the plan are useable roads on the ground and we shouldn't forget those.
  - Mark asked whether are any open areas in the Monticello Field Office or BENM, where driving is allowed off of designated routes. Jake confirmed that there are not and there was additional conversation.

**Committee Recommendation 2:** Continue limiting travel to existing routes within Bears Ears National Monument in conformance with current land management plans.

<b>Name and Category</b>	<b>Vote: yes, no, abstain</b>
Mark	Yes
Brooks	abstain
Eve	Yes
Davina	Yes
Regina	Yes
Denyce	Yes
Zeb	Yes
Adam	Not Present
Angelo	Yes
Kelly	Yes

- The committee moved on to discuss fire and forestry based on a recommendation from Regina.
  - Eve took a strong stance on no chemical or mechanical treatment because does not protect Monument objects and values.
  - Zeb disagreed with said that would limit tools too much.
  - Kelly reiterated disagreement on this
  - Mark mentioned that limiting only to prescribe burns and fires may be detrimental and harmful to resources that are supposed to protected. Also mentioned exorbitant cost of hand-thinning alone.
  - Forest Supervisor Ryan Nehl brought up the broad range of possibilities
  - Regina asked about protection of sites and documentation of sites as agencies work through vegetation management and how this is done.
  - Ryan discussed generally that we do try to avoid sensitive areas and document sites as well as have provisions for halting work if anything unforeseen is discovered.
  - Eve shared that it was particularly problematic for viewshed and habitat and then also protecting old growth trees and plants.
  - Mark, Kelly, and Zeb discussed having all the tools in the toolbox to deal with forestry issues, including chaining.
  - Jake brought the idea of a range of alternatives for the plan and how that might fit with forestry and fire.
  - Kelly asked about staff and ability to contract out work for fire and fuels ability and cost.
  - Ryan said thinning is the highest cost, prescribed fire often done in conjunction with other fuels projects
  - Jake mentioned working on projects like WRI with partners to help with funding
  - Angelo generally brought up traditional knowledge and incorporation of traditional use with Tribes. Specifically, mentioned how we work with tribes to make it available for use and how do we help with this. Angelo mentioned Kate's research at U of U on traditional use. Talked about sustain use and community need.
  - Angelo and Zeb a little discussion about traditional use and making wood available to communities

**Informal Recommendation 3a (did not receive wordsmithing/review as a group):** No chaining or use of herbicide within the Bears Ears National Monument. Only hand thinning, prioritizing the protection of monument values and old growth forest. Use only native species for rehabilitation and restoration.

**Informal Recommendation 3b (did not receive wordsmithing/review as a group):** Support flexibility with forest treatment methods within the Bears Ears National Monument.

**Informal Recommendation 3c (received wordsmithing/review as a group):** Integrate traditional knowledge and agency expertise into fire management. Seek additional information about the best practices for wood harvesting. For example, making more fuel wood available for individual use (warmth, cooking, ceremonial use).

Identify areas that should be thinned and identify area that could benefit from thinning.

Review studies underway at the University of Utah on this topic.

Recognizing the finite capacity of the wood within Bears Ears National Monument.

Monitoring wood harvesting to ensure the health of the landscape.

Note – no votes without quorum.

- Quick/brief discussions on vegetation management and grazing by Michael.

Rachel completed a technical check with attendees who were interested in providing comments 1:15pm.

The public comment period began at 1:30 p.m.

- Patrick M.- Vice president Colorado off-road defenders. Important to recognize great motorized trails such as Beef Basin, Arch Canyon, and Lockhart as examples. Greater emphasis on Arch Canyon. The commentor mentioned a perceived over-emphasis on Tribal Nations and mentioned concerns about religious rights or preference for Tribes.
- Sally S.- Great Old Broad for Wilderness mentioned litigation of former administration boundaries and their part on that. Also wanted to emphasize the importance of Tribal Nations inclusion. Quoted the BEC Plan. The Bears Ears National Monument should preference conservation over multiple uses, and FLPMA's multiple use mandate doesn't apply.
- Laura W.- Western Watersheds, interest in the vegetation management on public lands. Concerns with retreating over and over again. Investigate other methods for treatments and how effective they are and study outcomes. National landscape conservation management and this should be science based and because of Bears Ears has the traditional knowledge as a part of the management in particular for vegetation management
- Eric W.- Spent time in the BENM area, PHD in arid land resources appreciation of degradation of these landscapes. Mentioned high visitation numbers at nearby parks. Discussed permits for recreation. Instead of looking at permitting recreation in sensitive areas only recreate in places that are not as sensitive have a lighter touch on resources/landscape.
- Margie L.- Volunteer with Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and Rural Utah Project. Include Tribal Nations in management of the monument, similar to what Laura Welp and Sally Sharp had said. Emphasize the inclusion of tribes. Mentioned Moab and issues with UTVs and not to preference this use.
- Nina M.- Lived in Utah for 40 years, and still has children living in the region. Wants to emphasize the importance of the Bears Ears region, especially now living of the Midwest. Mentioned Asian-Pacific Islanders and including tribal wisdom/knowledge in the management. Mentioned multiple resources and importance of protecting them. Also mentioned the tribal collaboration framework.
- Debbie Y.- Live in Moab and spent time in BENM and taken the visit with respect ambassador training. Important to include the tribes and full engagement

of the tribes. Thinking of new ways of incorporating tribal input. Important to consider soundscapes and other intangible resources. Mentioned engagement between federal agencies and the tribes in managing cultural resources.

- Wayne H.- lives in Moab and has ancestors from the mid-1800s. Appreciates the tribal members on the MAC and management of BENM multiple uses should take a back seat. Noted the history of the monument and how that mirrors history of tribes. Talked about Moon House and visitation. Also talked about permitted use and paying fees as well as allocated permit. Mentioned the disappearance of artifacts and the need for more stringent management.
- Mike A.- backpacking lives in Tooele. Wants MAC to focus on two things that the proclamation preferences protection and restoration. Focus on collaborative management and not get too down into the weeds. Excited that Native Americans get the opportunity to have a seat at the table and provide their full voice and that our management includes this.
- Bill K.- Welcome Nicollee to BENM, journalist from SLC. Stress the importance of transparency to the manager. This could help with education around BENM. Excited about what's going on here. And would like to have the BEC Plan incorporated.
- Donette A.- Educator and passion for Native American rights. Important to incorporate this culture and to help educate about this. Speaking about a book and relations between Euro-American and Native American interactions and how it is important to consider Native American Culture
- Olivia J.- SLC public land program director for Latino group, missed name, Education and engagement of colored Americans in outdoors. Engage in training on diversity and inclusion and incorporating varied viewpoints. Curious about language barriers between Tribal languages and English speakers. Climate adaptation and resilience and working on the ecosystem in BENM
- Chaitna S.- Grand Canyon Trust good discussion today and encourage the idea of integration of management of cultural resources. Very insightful on the concept of what of cultural resources mean in the broad sense and how we manage cultural resources. Think about a comprehensive management recommendation around cultural resources.
- Holly S.- Educator and support native students in getting outside and visiting places like BENM. Also support education to discuss tribal sovereignty and the importance of this and how we collaboratively manage this landscape.
- Denyce (acting as Vice-Chair) thanked the public for their comments took notes. Talked about the general support of tribal knowledge in the planning effort. First meeting discussed about process and all the stakeholders/cooperators involved. Highlighted the momentous and unprecedented nature of the BENM. Opening up to MAC about any comments of various topics discussed in the meeting or brought up in the comments.
- Eve appreciation for public comments, concern that folks refer to concerns about that multiple uses not included. Eve requested clarification on this point noted ability for climbing.
- Jake clarified that multiple uses are allowed. Recreation is not noted as an object, is noted as a use.



- Michael also talked about multiple-uses are allowed as long as they protect and restore monument objects and values.
- Angelo emphasized the importance of working with Tribal Nations as sovereigns. Also emphasized what Jake had mentioned that recreation is not an object in the Proclamation.
- Closing Comments
  - Michael, BLM District Manager Nicollee Gaddis-Wyatt, Ryan, and Jake appreciation for the participation and work together. They shared the value in the discussion and the divergent perspectives. Michael shared that we need to overcome the use of ‘government speak’ and how we work through this and speak the same language.
  - Denyce expressed appreciation for everybody's time and also how this was a long day with a lot of learning like a whole environmental studies semester.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for December 7.

Review completed on October 31, 2021

By: Regina Lopez White-Skunk

Committee Chair