



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

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Grand Staircase-Escalante National
Monument Advisory Committee

William Weppner

GSENM Advisory Committee Chairman

Approved March 7, 2023



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

ATTENDEES

MAC: William Weppner (Committee Chair and Developed Outdoor Recreation), Commissioner David Tebbs (Local Elected Official), Commissioner Andy Gant (Local Elected Official), Shea Owens (State Government), Hank Stevens (Tribal Interests), Joel Pederson (Education), Sarah Bauman (Conservation), Drew Parkin (Private Landowner), Stephen Westhoff (Grazing Permittee), Jacqueline Grant (Public at Large), Lanse Chournos (Local Business Owner), Scott Berry (Dispersed Recreation), Vacant (Ecologist), Vacant (Paleontologist), Vacant (Archaeologist).

BLM: Greg Sheehan (BLM Utah State Director), Harry Barber (BLM Paria River District Manager/Designated Federal Official), Adé Nelson (BLM Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument Manager), Carrie Richardson (BLM National Advisory Committee Coordinator), Artemisia Turiya (Paria River District Planning and Environmental Coordinator), David Hercher (BLM Utah Public Affairs Specialist), Alli Yamnitsky (Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc.), Marsha Busson (Captioner), Heather Easterly (Captioner), Luke Hodges (Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc.).

Public/Media: There were approximately 30 guests registered for this MAC meeting. In attendance were approximately 16 members of the public, including representatives of the public, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and one media outlet.

GENERAL BUSINESS

9:00 a.m. – Meeting Logistics

>> **Amanda:** General housekeeping items regarding Zoom troubleshooting and the public comment period.

MAC agenda (see Attachment A)

9:10 a.m. – Leadership welcome

>> **HARRY:** I want to welcome everyone today to our third MAC meeting this year since we got the MAC back together. It's pretty excited to see us rolling again. We're getting into the meat of what we're trying to get done for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The planning effort as well as other things. We did have a tribal meeting recently. I'll visit and talk about that later but I'm grateful for everyone who is taking the time to be with us. With that, I'll turn it over to our esteemed State Director Greg and then we'll move into the items of business for the day. Welcome, Greg!



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> **GREG:** Good morning, everyone! Thank you for being here. We have a good number of you who serve on the MAC who are doing presentations. That's a bit unusual. It feels like most of our MAC or RAC meetings we have tend to be a lot of BLM presenting and having discussions. I'm happy to see today, we'll hear from many of you and thank you all again for being here.

We still have a couple of vacancies on our Mac. We have advanced names forward and it takes a while to go through this process as you all know but we have, for example, paleontologist and archaeologist and it takes time to work through the process. Additionally, as you probably recall, we had a new charter signed by the Secretary of Interior. That created a new matrix if you will, or a new listing of positions that serve as part of this MAC. As we transition and some of these terms expire, we will also be having not only some new individuals come on, but some will be different titled categories. So, keep an eye out as we advertise and keep the solicitations open for new committee members. As Harry said, we're still in the planning process here. You're all very familiar with that, I think. And a part of that is listening. Having meetings with public, cooperators, and tribes. As Harry said, we recently had a tribal summit or a meeting with some of the various local tribes to get some feedback there and I think these efforts will continue. I would continue to encourage everyone as we have gone through scoping but as we get into the draft, sometime late spring, please ensure you provide your input that way as well. It's very important for us to make sure we address through the planning process.

>> **HARRY:** Thanks, Greg. We appreciate you as our state director but also as a person that cares about the monument. And all of us are here for that reason because we care about the monument, so thank you. I think our introductions are over and this is an appropriate time to turn it over to our MAC chair Dr. William Weppner.

>> **BILL:** Good morning, everyone. The first order of business is to review, assess and approve the meeting notes from the previous Oct. 18th meeting. Made motion to approve minutes.

>> **BILL:** Yes

>> **SARAH:** Yes.

>> **SCOTT:** Yes.

>> **LANSE:** Absent. Did not vote.

>> **ANDY:** Yes



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> **JACQUALINE:** Yes.

>> **SHEA:** Yes.

>> **DREW:** Late. Did not vote.

>> **HANK:** Late. Did not vote.

>> **JOEL:** Yes

>> **DAVID T:** Yes

>> **STEVE:** Yes

>> The October 18th MAC meeting minutes were approved, and the chair began the MAC member-led discussions/presentations beginning with Shea Owens.

>> **SHEA:** Thank you. So, the State of Utah put together a three-and-a-half-minute video clip that gives a little bit of the State's perspective on the monuments in general and then specifically with these two larger monuments in southern Utah, and so I think we'll watch it quickly and I'll add a few comments afterwards. Starts video.

The governor's office and the attorney general's office put it together at the same time they filed the lawsuit against the Biden administration over the designation of those. So some of the big concerns that we have as the State of Utah with this monument specifically, and in a place where I think we can maybe find some consensus with everybody is, we believe there are objects that ought to be identified and that ought to be managed specifically that the concern we have is that it's really difficult to identify these objects the way it has been laid out.

The antiquities act references historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest and then the NLCS manual that the BLM has uses language that says, land use plans must analyze and consider measures to ensure that objects and values are conserved, protected, and restored. Specifically plans must clearly identify monument objects and values as described in the designated proclamation or legislation and where object and values are described only in broad categories, the BLM must identify the specific resource within the designated areas that fall in those categories.

I feel like if we can come up with some specific resources and the specific objects and have a finite list of what needs to be protected, I think that puts the BLM in a much better position to actually manage those objects but where you are just managing for broad categories and kind of vague objects,



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

it puts the BLM in a tough spot. That's within concern that the State has is these broad categories and non-specific terms in the proclamation that make it difficult to make management decisions. Often times monument designations don't protect them as much as they highlight them without commensurate funding with this monument designation. It puts the object at risk and that's a concern for this state.

When the governor testified in front of the natural resource oversight committee in DC in 2014, he shared a fact that Bears Ears in 2014 before it was designated was experiencing on average 5 cases of vandalism per year and that same year in 2014 in the monument, there were 1,400 reported cases of vandalism. Is and I know the concern there, as the more people come and the more pressure on these objects and without commensurate funding and the opportunity to protect those properly, you run the risk of vandalism and the destruction of these resources.

Generally, when somebody destroys a resource, they're not usually charge under the antiquities act. Usually, the national preservation act or other laws so the state has some concerns with these large-scale monuments because they feel these other laws do a better job protecting the resources and the worry about monuments is they have come with them, the monuments usually result in restrictions that suffocate local traditions and essential activities.

So, you'll get these management plans that change the local communities and traditional uses are happening on the lands. And, I think in this case, it changes the economy from a production to a service economy and that's a concern for the state. And then it locks up some potential critical minerals that may be accessible without damaging objects. And those are concerns that the State has. I want to reiterate; the State does feel these are unique and monument worthy and they probably just ought to be identified and protected in a more focused effort rather than just this big general effort to protect them. I'm done, Bill.

>> **BILL:** Thank you, Shea! You did a great job. Next up is Lance and as I said, Lance is away on a family issue. What he sent me yesterday, I'm going to read it. This is Lance speaking now. My hope was to make sure that motorized access was kept open on the monument and my method of off-road travel as a side-by-side UTV. I enjoy the hiking and quiet opportunities that the monument offers along with the amazing scenery. Clearly with the progression of humanity, motorized travel is not going away. Rather than just say no and try to limit or ban motorized use, it should be accepted and planned for. I imagine monuments and national parks were created, the original intent is to save for all future generations to enjoy, not to be locked out of. I ask that we keep it in mind in our decisions and discussions going forward.

>> **SCOTT:** Thank you! Can everyone hear me? If you can't hear me, somebody wave so I know. I don't want to waste my time. Let me start by saying, I'm having to bite my tongue a bit. In my life as a lawyer, I had a lot of occasions to sit in the courtroom and hear opposing council and live with their version of the case and so it's always tempting to jump right up and start a debate with your opponent and that's kind of what I am tempted to do with what Mr. Owens had to say and he probably



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

understands that as a lawyer. I'm going to say what I did in the courtroom. I respectfully disagree with almost everything that came out in that video about the state of the monument and what the genuine concerns are. What I want to talk about is the monument and some of the issues that we need to think about in the future as we begin the planning process. A big picture item I am concerned with is I believe that the environment and everything in the monument is in a dynamic situation.

In the face of climate change, just about everything is going to change in the next decade or twenty years. Nothing that we're really exactly familiar with today is going to be the same 20 years from now. We've got, you know, we have already experienced nearly a 3 degree increase in average temperatures at the monument. We have a 20 year plus drought going on. We have changes in the precipitation regime. In the snow, the expansion of cheat grass and other exotic vegetation areas of the monument. We have increased fire hazards. We have, you know, rapidly increasing visitation pressures. Those are all changing factors, dynamic factors that will continue. So, I think, we need to start thinking about how to set up a management system that is including flexibility and the availability and assuming that changes will occur, and the job of effective management is to figure out how to manage for change. How to manage the landscape in the face of uncertainty. And that's a real challenge. There's no two ways about it. The starting point is to figure out methods and be procedures and processes that can be incorporated into the planning process. It will allow us to recognize what is happening and how to like, manage for the goals that we want to eventually meet. I kind of think in the past, management has been sort of a static thing. They have assumed basically a static background that was small changes in the foreground. I think that's changing and I think it's going to be in the foreground and figuring out how to manage for it is a big challenge that I would like to see this group, the agencies and organization and public to appreciate it and start looking for opportunities to do that type of planning. So that's my number one thing I want to talk about. The other thing I want to talk about is science.

Some of you probably have heard me talk about science before. Science is why generally, why the monument was created. It was created to protect the science resources that exist in the monument. And now it's a little bit different than the national park mission that Lance mentioned in his statement. It's really about protecting the specific set of resources all outlined quite extensively with single spaced descriptions on what is out there to protect.

So, it's not vague. We have markers and we need to take the idea that science isn't something that is added on at the end. It's something that starting in the beginning where we try to use science to get answers to our management questions. How to deal with invasive and deal with changes and all of the changes we may see on this in terms of already quality of everything. And the idea is the science regime with a heavy impact. So that's more than a plan.

The third thing I want to mention is kind of the assumption that lies behind a lot of planning for the monument is that it's all up to the BLM. We're all here to help the BLM come up with the rule book we want to add to the monument the way we want it. But it's all up to the BLM and that kind of



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

annoys the gorilla in the corner which we're all aware of is that the BLM simply does not have the resources to do that job. They don't have the staff. They don't have the funding. They simply don't have the resources to really carry out the job they have been assigned. So, it's important that we recognize that because, you know, telling people to do something, requires resources we simply don't have. We're not going to advance them at all on the playing field.

So, what conclusion I glean from that, it's up to all of us to find ways to support the BLM number one. To support the BLM's efforts to obtain more funding, to obtain more staff, and obtain more qualified staff and make sure that the BLM has the resources they need, and I also think, everyone has the interest of the monument, the whole monument community has to pitch in on their own and find ways where they can help carry out the mission of the monument.

There's a lot of things that can be done there and I hope to see it happen in the future and by that, I mean the public, the environmental community, and any local government. I mean, everybody has to find ways to contribute to reaching the management goals. To some degree in limited areas, I think that means we have to empower these communities. I think individuals all need to have opportunities to participate in forums where they cannot only be heard but where they can see their contributions acted upon and it's not just thrown into a federal ozone where we never exactly know what goes on.

So, I would like to see procedures, methods, and different ways to collaborate more effectively and ways to make sure that effective collaboration includes voices for everybody that is participating so they can see some result from their contribution. So basically, that's about it. That's the three things I wanted to talk about. Those are the 30,000-level view for sure. But I do definitely want to get the situation where it's a back and forth, a volley back and forth, a tennis ball going back and forth over the net where one side says this, and one side says that. I think it's up to this committee to find ways to work together and reach good decisions about the monument and grant it, that's going to be a real challenge, but I'm interested in doing that. I think everybody on this call and even the organization that are represented, realize that there are resources of great value in the monument that deserve to be protected and they want to contribute to that effort, and I think we just need to find ways to work to make it happen. Thank you!

>> **BILL:** Great, thank you, Scott!

>> **GREG:** Mr. Chair, if I can add really quick. Thank you, Scott, for ringing the bell for resources for our management at BLM. We can use all of the support we can get from that. I recall about 20 years ago with the monument, we had about Harry could correct me, we had about 125 employees in a variety of different roles there, and I think we're down to somewhere around 35 now from about 125 originally so I may be off on those numbers a little bit but maybe Harry, you can correct.

>> **HARRY:** Your numbers aren't too far off. In the beginning, we knew we were rich in terms of the



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

positions we had, particularly in hydrology and geology, some of those things we don't have a lot of now. It's a key point trying to get the focuses here that can best represent the resources that we manage.

>> **BILL:** So next up is Steve and again, Steve, I would like to thank for suggesting this idea. So, the time is yours.

>> **STEVE:** Okay, this is the most awkward format ever for me, but I appreciate the opportunity to give me opinion and advice as part of the being on the advisory committee. But also, I appreciate the State BLM director saying, it is maybe the last time we met, that when we drive through the monument or when we walk through the monument, we see different things. And as a grazing representative, I brought you pictures of some of the things I have seen. I'm going to try to put these pictures here in the camera. When I hiked through coyote canyon, I was taking pictures of the dead grass in coyote canyon. I can show some more. This kind of drew some of us nuts because they were taking pictures of the bridges and the cliffs and the arches and my point is, if you go in the monument and look around, you can see things that maybe look over grazed or look disturbed by cattle and you get to thinking that grazing is bad and disturbance is bad but coyote canyon hasn't had any cattle in it that I'm aware of for fifty years and all throughout that canyon, there's dead grasses.

A couple of years ago I was up in Steep Creek, east of boulder. It's been rested probably for twenty years, I'm guessing. And there's dead grasses all over that. More active grazing is not going to improve that. And when I hear the BLM talk about don't bust the crust or leave no trace, I wonder if it's just for people in management because when I quit ranching and started the RV park right across the street from the visitor center in Escalante I disturbed that ground a lot to make levelled and the rice grass is the biggest rice grass you can find and that's from the disturbance I did. And similar to what I'm showing you, sometimes disturbance is good and sometimes it's bad and it takes management to get that correct. So, some of the healthiest I see, is where this kind of scraped the crust off of the soil and it came in with western wheat grass better than you can find anywhere. I also brought this picture of the inside of my corral, probably twice a year, it has 200 to 300 cattle, yet it seems to be fine with recovering from that disturbance.

Here is a horse pasture. It's probably the most is this is kind of a selfie I took when I was packing the Park Service archaeologist guys, but the horse pasture is one of the most used areas of my allotment and yet, it can look like this after some rest. And I just think we need to be careful and not do black and white thinking when it comes to grazing and get the idea that all grazing is bad, or all disturbance is bad, and that rest is what stuff needs. Let me find a picture here. I wish every land manager had a picture of this suck suggestion or at least the planers because if nobody does nothing, sage brush gets to be more like this and if we still do nothing, the whole lot of the country turns into mature pinyon and sage. If you look closely, there's dead sage brush under all of these trees because of succession and the concept of suck suggestion and what is going to happen if nobody does nothing to me seems to be lost on frat land planers. And I think the county understands it better than the



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

federal government and I think the state understands it better than the federal government which is why they zone property for grazing and the federal government for some reason, keeps closing areas to grazing whether it's beneficial to range land health or not. So that's my first point W. Grazing is more complicated than black and white thinking.

My second point is, I have been involved in agriculture my whole life and long in the mid-90s, I was getting frustrated. I had 4,000 month pumping cost for my irrigation. My big tractor was made in Germany and my tires when I replaced them came from China and for all I knew, the fuel was coming from Saudi Arabia and I remember being frustrated going, I don't want this. I just want to raise cattle. I want to raise my own horses and my own to train and I started selling my farm and I started looking for a place to run cattle.

And if you look too far north like Minnesota, they feed hay five months a year and spend all summer making the hay. If you go too far south like Mississippi, they traditionally feed hay for five months a year because they grow only warm season grasses and all of that shuts down as soon as it gets cold and it doesn't maintain its nutritional value. If you look worldwide. Both hemispheres, the closer you can get to 37th. And when I was looking, I came here because the 37th and a half parallel run between the town of Escalante and boulder. I can consider this to be one of the top areas two ended up in New Zealand and one went to South Africa and one was at the rain forest in two years and consistently, I would help him wean them, he would put them in the rain forest and be my caves did better because we have some of the most nutritious grasses on the planet right here on the desert.

So, by far, the healthiest range land or crops I have seen on any ranch is people who practice management intensive grazing, and most people hear intensive grazing but it's grazing that is management intensive. Anything that takes management of the cattle in the monument away from people that understand the consequences for decisions, I think, is a mistake. And we're to the point now where most grazing decisions seem to be made by judges.

I don't think it's a good plan for range health. Bill, how much time do I have left? Okay. I just want to end by saying, when I bought my allotment, I wanted to certify them organic and to do that, I had to get the cooperation for me to have a certified organic grazing allotment. The only thing that the BLM had to change was agree not to use posts that had creosote. On that, they have a management certified organic level and I don't think anyone gives them credit for that or enough credit for their management and thank you for allowing me to express my opinion about grazing.

>> BILL: Thank you, Steve! We should certainly have a robust conversation this afternoon. What the agenda calls is right now, number one, a reminder to the public, if you want to make a public statement later this afternoon, you need to sign up for that. So, I'm going to remind everyone that is watching from the general public to do that if you're interested. We can also take just a quick five-minute break. And then resume our discussions here. So, let's just take five minutes. This is just a little bit before 10 o'clock, let's say.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> SARAH: I guess, BLM, if you can cue up my PowerPoint presentation, that would be great! Thank you very much! I appreciate this opportunity. I do feel compelled to respond to a couple of things that were mentioned earlier but first I just wanted to start off with the fact that we as a committee have legally binding guidance. The proclamation, the charter, and the national landscape conservation system criteria so we are all here to carry out this charter, to support the proclamation and to meet the national landscape conservation system criteria. We may differ in our approach to that but those are our guiding legal documents, so I just wanted to set the stage with that. And then just briefly respond to Mr. Owens with the video that was presented. Because I do feel like, I mean, the last thing I wanted to say before jumping into that is, we do not have the scientists in the room to provide the kinds of recommendations required by that charter and to really be able to support the proclamation and the way we need to do it through the committee and the management process. So, as we make these presentations there's a big gaping hole which is the perspective of the scientists to bring forth to this as well as, I think, diverse, indigenous perspectives and I know that Hank will be presenting on that later, but I just wanted to put it out there. In response to the State video, I feel it's highly misrepresentative of the facts related to the monument both with how the boundaries were created which were based on very specific needs on cultural and biological resources that exist. And also, I will get into it in the next slide, but actually, can you just click through the next slide as I continue this conversation?

So also, in response to Mr. Owens video, two pieces. Evidence of other laws protecting these resources, there was no evidence presented that the other laws will be able to protect these resources. And also, that the monuments local economies. I did not hear the evidence for that. And then the last thing I wanted to just point out there is the state's role in promoting the tourism-based economy and you may have all heard of the Mighty 5 campaign and other campaigns that promote tourism because of its economic benefit. So, I will leave it there. As a representative of conservation, I know many people have different ideas of conservation. I want to point out one definition, to protect something, especially an environmental thing for harm and destruction. You can see here, very specific objects of value. This is not a complete list by far. These are just highlights of what is within the monument's boundaries. Each of these areas, science, biodiversity, and culture requires specific management actions to ensure their continued existence. I wanted to call up biodiversity because I think this is a resource that is rarely spoken about within the context of this landscape and more broadly within our state when we think about resources to be protected but it's probably the most important thing that we need to focus on for the survival of not just biodiversity itself but all species including humans.

Scientists have done a lot of research on this and based on fossil records and the fact we are losing 75% of our biodiversity in a short geological time frame, we are likely in the 6th extinction. This is something really spoken about in the context of human activity and climate change which I will get to in the next slide but just wanted to point it out, how important this landscape is. The state of Utah and you know, we look in order to be really successful in supporting mitigation with climate change



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

and conservation. We need to start working together on a broader scale.

And then I just want to point out too, I have here 7% of indigenous cultural sites, inventoried largely through section 106 but that's a high number based on my conversations with archaeologists, they say 5 to 7%. You can think about how big this landscape is, 1.9 million acres. How little we know about what exists with the cultural sites but the cultural site inventories that have been done show that it's very rich in cultural sites and I know there's something like 100,000 when you look at this and grand staircase combined. It's also rich in pioneer history which we saw many of the MAC members talk about at the last MAC meeting. And the integration of indigenous perspectives and traditional ecological knowledge is missing from the monument science that has been done to date as well as its management. Next slide, please.

Okay. So far, we have heard a majority of folks that I think have articulated a desire and sort of opposing the monument as a whole which is very disturbing. This requires higher protected areas which includes more monitoring and strategic approaches to how we will address the resources that exist within this landscape. And it is also highly significant to our efforts, and this includes the Biden administration to protect 30% of land and water by 2030. So, there's a lot of unknowns about what is going to happen, specifically but we do know that climate, that climate change is causing changes to this landscape and all of the biological resources within it. It will also cause changes to the cultural resources. So, whatever we do with the management of this landscape, be responsive to that. Next slide, please.

So, this is one model. We, meaning myself, other conservation organizations, and by our organization, the organization that I work with which is (inaudible) partners has been having conversations with wildlife conservation society and other organizations that work on a national global level of how we're going to address public lands management in a changing environment that is based on human activity and climate change. This particular model and I'm going to give some examples in a minute are called resist, accept, direct.

So, this cultural resources, ecosystems, and cultural site but the way we do it, may look different at each pace. It all requires, and I think maybe the only thing we can agree on, is the monument needs more resources, or one of the things we agree with. But the monument needs more resources on the ground to be able to manage the landscape and to meet the purpose and need of the proclamation to fulfill our requirements for the charter as well as meet the national landscape conservation criteria, but we need to be future oriented, and a lot of conservation has been rooted in returning landscapes to the past. Which does, which would be restoration and under the resist category which does make sense in some cases. But in other cases, we really need to be more innovative and find ways to work with climate change in a way that helps the landscape move into a new era that ensures, intact ecosystems and biodiversity preservation and things like that. Please go to the next slide, please.

So, this tie into resource management plan and adaptive management strategies so we are using the science and data we know and then we're continuing to monitor and build up our understanding of



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

what needs to happen where. So here you'll see under resistance, one of the examples is invasive species removal among the watersheds. This top example is an example where there's removal over 90 miles of the river which brings back the native vegetation and habitat and supports native species and biodiversity. The second photo is what is known as the bowl that we constructed on our site. We have a project that we received funding for that will be initially done on private land with the monument and then hopefully, we'll be able to use that data, collect to install them within the monument itself. But the idea is, that you're addressing erosion and climate change by capturing the water, increasing the water table which supports the vegetation and then the habitats and the wildlife and it also, you know, we can have climate change. Sometimes you have flash floods, and the water is not serving the ecosystem services and functions. So that's an example of directing. And then you see under accepting, it may not match historical baselines but do support ecological health. That's an example. I just wanted to be clear on what each of these terms mean to us. Okay?

So next slide, please. No matter what we do within the management, the BLM needs the resources and the partnerships in place to be able to manage this landscape and meet the purpose and need and protect the object of scientific and historic interest identified in the 2021 proclamation as well as meet the national landscape conservation system criteria and we as a committee have an obligation to the charter. So, I just wanted to keep bringing us back to that because it does feel like we're not all aligned with the charter. Nor the purpose and need in the proclamation or the NLCS criteria and I know that the NLCS criteria was shared with the group. We obviously received the training on the charter and we all should be familiar with the proclamation.

Preserving biodiversity and landscape connectivity while acting to support climate change, adaptation and sustain ecosystem functions and services. That goes back to the RAD model that I spoke about. DL are other models out there too, but they all need to have some type of monitoring and adaptive management. The prioritization of protecting wilderness study areas. We go back to the biodiversity laws. The science and evidence out there is that the areas I had a map in here I took out and that I wish I had kept in there is a map of United States and it showed the rates of biodiversity laws and it was color coded and you saw, especially on the west coast or the western part of the United States, there's a lot of species richness and a lot of threatened and endangered species and there's another map where it showed the protected landscapes and how the endangered, threatened and endangered species were pushed under the outside of these protected landscapes and what that map told me and I'm sure others may have other interpretations but we need more protected areas and not less as the state would suggest. If we really are going to be successful in ecosystem, preservation, and also ensuring that we don't have further biodiversity law that are really catastrophic. Not just for the species but for humans. Not just in our state, in our country but throughout the world. I also wanted to highlight native vegetation and a sensitive biological soil crust. I heard a comment earlier that humans may be the most harmful to biological soil crust. I would agree that it is the case, humans can be very damaging to the biological soil crust and all sorts of activities are also damaging such as grazing and motorized vehicle used and I don't want to come across as saying that humans should not be interacting with this landscape. We need to be very careful about where it happens and really concentrating recreation in the front country and in places where we know it's not going to damage



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

the sensitive areas.

That do include native vegetation, the biological soil crust which is absolutely crucial to the life forms that exist on this landscape and beyond. These boundaries, wildlife, and plants, they don't just exist within the narrow focus of this monument. It's important from a regional and statewide perspective. You all received the list of the endangered, rare, and uncommon plants and I know there was support from a few people, or response from a few people that really appreciated that. Well, if we're going to be successful in preserving these plants, we need to think about how we're managing the areas where these plants exist and that includes the soil crust and the ecosystems all around. And then finally, supporting collaborative stewardship and co management with tribes and pueblos will also be integral or essential to our ability to be successful in conservation as a whole. And I know that Hank will be speaking more in detail about that.

Next slide, please. Okay, I was really tempted to send something in the chat to remove this slide, but I didn't remove this slide because I really do think that conservation must evolve. I know I have heard a lot of folks say things like special interest groups and I think people more broadly think of conservation as the protection of one species or what comes to mind is the world wildlife fund where there's efforts to protect an important endangered species like a tiger.

Those are important efforts. They don't build awareness of other species who are at risk of going extinct or endangered, which includes like many insects. There are many species that exist that we don't even know about yet because we haven't done the science that needs to be done to understand it. And I heard another example, and I don't know where I am with time. Oh, I'm on the red. He's flashing the red. I want to say, it's going to take all of us working together and the logos on here are ones I put on here: They're not a complete list and they're I didn't ask permission for these logos on the slide so it's not an endorsement of this presentation. They're an example of if we truly want to be successful, we do need to find a way to work together, and the red is there. So, we'll do the next slide. I think that's the thank slide! This is me thank you slide. The future of grand staircase rests on our ability to do good things together, driven by sound science, understanding the past, responding to the present and managing for the future. Thank you so much for this opportunity. I'm done.

>> BILL: Next up is Joel Patterson.

>> JOEL: Thank, Bill! You make me feel guilty, but I like your system with the folders, green I like it. So, my perspective and wishes for the monument and the map. I'm an educator and a lifelong geo scientist and I was really excited to join the MAC a year ago because I think I'm in a good position to provide advice and help on certain topics. Considering I'm a scientist, it should be no surprise, generally my perspective aligns with the idea or the proclamation of the monument being a science monument.

And I'm on board with that. And I'm here to help. So, I am looking at a sheet here. I have some



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

things written down on what I hope for the monument. And I do not have an ax to grind and I'm going to spare my personal opinions. I'm going to skip what I wrote down. I do think the monument is profoundly important for education and resource and knowledge. And again, I want to help. That's why I joined the MAC. And one thing I have heard almost everyone say is at the top of my list is, one of my hopes that I can help the monument recover the people and the financial resources they need to actually accomplish the management of this big monument and hopefully, you know, one of the goals is a sustained management plan. If the monument can have it, it opens up the door for the resources they need. And I am hoping I can provide the help and the advice that the BLM needs as they're writing the management plan. That's what I'm here for.

And what do I hope for the Mac as a committee? As you can tell from my tone, I hope we get under work in advisory duties. As I read through the guidance on what our Mac is supposed to do, it says compile data and review studies. I'm all about it and want to do it and I know I can help. And I'm hoping that the BLM personnel are able to provide us with some directions so we can be in an advisory council and one thing that we have had a suggestion of that I am in favor of is potentially forming subcommittees so that we can kind of break down and start addressing some of the that big things that are already coming up. Finally, as a scientist, I'm hoping we as a Mac are going to make recommendations that are based on reason and data and evidence. And we must assume, of course, that any result of this is going to be a compromise. And we have to approach the process from that from the beginning. That's all I have to say, thank you!

>> BILL: Thank you, Joel. We're staying on schedule very well and I appreciate that. I'm sure we're going to have as I said, a very robust discussion this afternoon. I would just like to remind everybody, and I know it's tempting to respond to something you have heard before. Let's let everybody get their presentation out and like I said, we'll have at least an hour this afternoon to discuss and debate and agree or disagree but hopefully it will be a productive discussion. Next up on the schedule is Drew Parkin. I do not see Drew on the screen here. So, we'll move to Dr. Jacqueline Grant who is the park representative. Jackie, the time is yours.

>> JACQUALINE: Hello, everybody! I'm Jacqueline Grant and I go by Jackie. I'm a professor of geo sciences at southern Utah University but I'm really a biologist. I am giving you my presentation on, well, you'll see it in a minute, I represent the public at large. Can I have the next slide, please?

All right, so I have an outline today of some items we were tasked with. Please click the next button. We were asked to express my viewpoint and please click the next button. And for me, that is going to be focusing on discussing the worth of the grand staircase Escalante monument or how we value it. What are the different ways we value it because that's where our conflict comes in. Next, please. I'm going to end with future agenda items. We were asked to come up with possible agenda items and I'm going to come up with five of those.

Next slide, please. All right, my viewpoint on the grand staircase Escalante in addition to representing the public at large, I'm a user. I live down here in southern Utah. I own property of the



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

border of the monument, and I get out in the monument a lot because I really love nature and I love plants and I love science and education. And that is what brings me out there. Echoing what Joel said, I'm really here because I want to help the BLM and I want to see the monument be successful. So, when we look at pictures of the monument, we often see this sort of picture you can see on this slide right now on your screen which shows the monument as this empty open place with no people in it. Next slide, please. But what we really know is that the monument has a lot of people. What I would really like to see is this, how we manage people and their interactions and that can be people and their families who are not from Utah and people and their families that are from Utah and people who actually live and work on the monument every day. All of these people are American citizens, and all of their perspectives are really important in managing the monument and helping us all to get the most out of it.

And we also see this is where one of our biggest areas of conflict is, right? So, I want to go in the next discussion. The next slide, please. Which is all about values. So why do we protect the GSENM. Next slide. This is a series of clicks. We have use values, next click, nonuse values. And I will describe what those are in a moment. First, let's talk about non-use values. If we can go two clicks at a time here. We have option values and existence values. These are values where we're not actually physically destroying or taking something from the monument. So, an option value is a value where we know, or we think there may be a value in the future. So, for example, there could be a really rare plant or really common plant that lives on the monument and that plant may hold the chemical compound that cures cancer, right? So, this is a pretty typical example.

We want the option to harvest that plant one day in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner and maybe cure people's illnesses in the future. But and I will bring up grazing here just to get people's hack up, if the cow comes in and eats the plant, that option is gone and maybe the medicine that could have helped many people is gone because it was eaten. It could be eaten by a person or a cow, it doesn't matter. Existence value is those values where we value something even though we may never see it. Many people buy photographs of the geological features on the monument, or they like to think about fossils from the monument and can only be found there but they're never going to see them. They may never travel to Utah because it's a long way to go and a remote location so the existence values are what people would pay to know that those things are being protected and many conservation organizations get a lot of revenue from the existence values and people who will never come from the monument.

So now let's go to use values. Two more clicks. We have direct use values and indirect use values. First, we'll talking about direct where we are directly using the resource. Another clicks, please. Direct use values are broken down to consumptive values where we eat or take something from the monument, and we get we may be trading it locally or we take it for ourselves. So, this might be firewood. A lot of people collect firewood and sell it to the tourist coming through the area. That's an example of a consumptive value. We may also know people who harvest plants for oils or ceremonial purposes and those are also consumptive values. Next click, please. The other one where we're



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

directly using it is a productive value. So, this means something we trade in the national level or the international level and this is where we're talking about coal resources, natural gases, and anything that we can take from the monument and sell at a national economic level. So, we value it in a different way than local consumptive values. Let's move to indirect values. Let's hit three clicks in a row here to have them on the screen. Incorrect use values are where the environment itself is providing us with a value that is really important to us and that can be very broken to three different categories, provisioning, ecosystem services.

So, the ecosystem, the land is producing something that maybe we get a consumptive value out of or a productive value out of it. So, this would be the land is healthy enough to produce a food or firewood or something that we are going to value. And we also get regulating eco services from the monument. It's big enough and the size is really important because it can help regulate air pollution, water pollution, it can help produce healthy soils that we need for our consumptive and our productive uses of the land. So having this huge size is an awesome benefit here for the monument.

And then cultural ecosystem services which is more like the spiritual value. So, this is where a lot of indigenous perspectives come in that we tended to over time. What is the spiritual value of the monument? How can the monument be used for science and education and mental health and rejuvenation.

This shows here, but with the number of resources that we're seeing, I think we tend to move over into direct use values because they their presence on the land is affecting the land itself. So, let's go to the next slide and talk about agenda items.

The first one goes back to what Joel is saying. Some smart goals for the MAC, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound goals for us as the MAC. What are some tasks we can engage in that will help the BLM move forward with the management of the monument. Next slide. I would also like to see a presentation on the specific types of information that BLM staff and the DFO need from us to help them manage the monument and meet planner objectives. This is again, described in our charter. One of the things it says in there is we need to be able to pull information out of these annual manager reports and feed it back to the BLM in a way that meets the management objectives. I don't know what they are yet. I would like to get training on how to do that and what are the specific types of information that are going to be the most helpful that I can help analyze. Next slide, please.

As much as I would like to chase these Horn lizards you can see on the right-hand side of the screen, we need to produce an annual report from our committee. So, I would like to know what the timeline for that report is. When is it due? What contents need to be inside of it? Who is going to do all of the work? It can't just be Bill. How are we going to work together to prepare this report? Next slide, please.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

I would like to see protocol on transitioning and onboarding. We know in May we are going to see transitions and we know we have a couple of new members coming on here and there as they get approved. What is the plan for getting them on board and up and running? May will come sooner than we anticipate. Let's go to the next and last slide I have. What is the process of reviewing research proposals and allocating funding that has been mentioned in the charter and something that I as a professor am really excited about. This is a picture of one of the research teams that are out on the monument this last summer, looking for pollinators and doing pollinator research. I would like to know what is the process for reviewing research proposals and how can we get those moving in that links back to the whole conversation that we have been having all along which is how do we get more resources to the BLM to make the monument really successful? And with that, I am finished. Thank you so much for listening to my presentation.

>> BILL: Thank you very much, Jackie. Number one for meeting the time frame but your comments about the annual report are already something I had on the agenda to discuss in the end. I appreciate that. There's even a little bit more detail than you presented that we need to kind of figure out, so I appreciate that! I do know that Hank Stevens is trying to get in. I don't see him on the screen. I am hoping that David or somebody at the Zoom office there can help him make the contact that he needs.

>> ANDY: >> Andy: Start video. Great! Thanks! I will be brief. I'm not going to take all of the time we have. I had a fairly long spiel lined up here, but I will keep it simple. We have a lot of experts here to weigh in on the deep stuff. I just hope that with all of these guidelines and plans we need to implement, that the focus is, and again, I will go back to the easy one. I think we all agree on. I don't think many of the plans or goals mean much if we can't implement them much here on the monument. And as the crowds increase and I'm looking at it from a very practical standpoint, it's harder every day to manage all of different types of traffic, foot traffic, hiking traffic, biking, whatever it is, ATVs.

The last I knew, the BLM had one enforcement officer. And I think they contract with the county for one LEO position. And all of the high-end planning and one of the great and wonderful ideas don't mean much if we can't implement it here. Protections are wonderful and I think, maybe we agree on more of those than people may think but I know, I think right off Sarah, and I come from very different perspectives. But I guess, if we sat down long enough, we would find many of the protections are more similar than apparent here on the MAC. And we have a lot of different interests wanting to implement some diverse rules.

If the BLM doesn't have the resources and the county doesn't have the resources, to make sure those rules are followed, it really is all for not. We can change the entire dynamic of the monument if we can go out there and take the ATVs off the area they don't belong on, and cross country travel off that it's not approved for. We already can't do that. So, I wish there were more focus on ways to make the plans a reality. And I know it's an uphill battle because we're not going to get more resources probably from the federal government to protect what we already have. I am a big believer in the discreet objects and particular areas that need protection. To follow up and protect those. There's a



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

lot of different classifications online here that need attention. You know, we have all kinds of exclusionary zones, and nobody even knows where the boundaries and I would love to enforce those as a county. Somebody would like to push the right buttons, I guess in Washington. I'm not familiar with our full-time scientific staff. I know the last one I ever got to work with was Dr. Tide and we talked about the new scientific interests in the monument. Scrapping the old plan and going with the new. That seems to be the focus. I would love to meet the staff that can implement these help study and research. Basically, they have made great discoveries out here but where is the money? Where are the people? IE the people. Harry ought to have a staff of ten science related professionals if that's what we want to do with this. And I don't hear enough focus on that. I will leave it at that. Thanks!

>>BILL: Thank you, Andy. Next up is commissioner David. David, the time is yours.

>> DAVID T.: Thank you. I appreciate the presentations thus far. I would echo commissioner's sentiment. I hear a lot that we think it shouldn't exist, the monument at all. And I think we all agree, and I want it on the record, we agree. There are some things that need protected. And a lot of the presentations have said, we don't think it ought to exist and I'm sure they're referring to us as the local representatives but there are items that need protected, but the vagueness is what we're concerned about. This broad brush about protecting everything and even the unknowns, I guess, that, you just don't know but the antiquities act is to protect the known objects and that's why it was implemented. And then some comments on grazing. I also want to have the scientists in the room to realize that you know about the prehistoric they found and removed cattle off. They are like, oh, I found prehistoric areas where cattle grazed for generations, and they pulled the cows off and then the flower didn't regenerate as well. Because the cattle were a part of that ecosystem that allowed for that flower to grow. I'm looking up the name of it and I can't remember the name of the flower. Do you know?

But a lot of times, science over looks there's many components to that ecosystem that allow for maybe some of these plants to grow and thrive. And so, grazing isn't a bad thing. Especially if you find something where grazing is continually happening. But that's not the point of my presentation. I'm here to represent the people of Garfield County. I wrote a few things down. I think we can relate to this. We find purpose by connecting with our ancestors. Land, and the experiences. All of us find inspiration through connecting with these lands that we're discussing. That we're worried about, and we want to protect. But we all connect to the landscape in different ways.

I led a group of youth on one of the largest group religious treks to hole in the rock. We took the group, about 120 youth to the hole of the rock, we camped near there, walked the last four miles to the hole in the rock location. We danced, at dance hall rock, endured a sandstorm that endured our mouths and tents with sand. We were a little uncomfortable bringing the ancestors into a temporary moment of reality. I heard testimonials from many of the group, how they felt inspired to face their own life's challenges as they reflected on struggles of those who achieved the near impossible task, crossing the Colorado River at hole many the rock. Similar experiences connect families through the land with grazing and ranching. Generations of struggle, raising cattle and families that are a part of



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

our heritage. Families and sustainable are connected to the land. We are seeing these families, our heritage and the way of life being threatened by bureaucrats making management decisions without the consideration for the local, religious, and tribal and heritage.

And we see a lot of times a lot of our connection with the land and our religious heritage is overlooked because of science concepts and science is a changing it changes also. It's not an absolute science. Science will change. Similar, religious, tribal connect with the land and many of our traditional activities have been hampered by the formation of the grand staircase. We were told they would be protected, and they haven't been. That's my purpose. I feel like, and I want to see the MAC preserve some of those traditional and cultural activities. I would like to see semiannual group exemptions where you can do a religious group in an area. Use it as an opportunity to educate and protect the landscape and objects and also experience connecting with the land and those histories and oral histories that our ancestors can share with us. Pack trips. I was involved in many of those as we rode out to the monument. I ranch area, deer spring, Johnson's hall, a lot of these areas that are just amazing and hard. They are hard and these hard things also help us deal with life's challenges also, as we experience hard things. Grazing, wood cutting which is dead trees. Not all of it is sold for commercial but you know, very little, in fact, may be sold for commercial that is harvested online but our local communities heat their homes, and it is a source of cheap fuel. It also cleans up some of the dead fuel that resides on the monument. Chris mass tree cutting, access to roads and areas and allowing our families and communities to connect. And also, vegetation treatment projects that rehabilitate the landscape. You know, I was on the last Mac meeting where we held the monuments grazing specialist, which is scientifically backed, supported for better soil health, for better watershed protection. They asked them in that meeting, what would be the best form of vegetative treatment. And he said, chaining. That would turn your heads because it fills in the eroded areas with soil. To talk about the landscape, it aerates the soil and if you look at the project, one side of the road would look amazing and there's vegetation and you have watershed protection, you have soil protection and on the other side, it's pure pinyon and juniper. It helps all of those mule herds that reside on the monument and elk too, sage grass, and he pointed it out as a scientific grazing on the monument and part of all year range tech that scientifically is based.

That is the healthiest to restore the landscape. But it was never pursued and was poo pooped upon. Whatever you want to call it, that it wasn't the best way and yet, I sat at the presentation, and they answered that question. So, it's the best way to restore the soil, the watershed. So, it just, the science also depends on what perfective you're looking at and what your long-term goals are. We ought to see a healthy landscape that allows people to connect and find strength through it. We all know, you can't say you have been in a hike or into an area where you just sat and felt the power, the greater powers that be, I call it God, to connect with us. And we want our people to experience that still and not be locked out of these lands where they can connect with their ancestors and these experiences. So, I think you can see people strengthened and inspired by being connected to the land. I would like to see the Mac supporting some of these policies and some of these protections for the descendant communities. Those who live here, those who have ancestors who have been on the ground and



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

connected with the land. And not seen it trampled under the scientific approaches to everything. I think we need to find this balance. There are things that need to be protected and our local cultural heritage histories experiences need to be part of that. I yield back my time.

>> BILL: Thank you, commissioner.

>> HANK: Thank you, everyone for calling in today. My name is hank Stevens. I am the tribal representative for grand staircase Escalante monument. I live and reside out here in Navajo. This is Navajo mountain in San Juan County Utah near the lake. And I apologize for not being on the call at 9 o'clock. We had issues with the internet out here. We did get some snow and it's a blessing to have the rain and snow out here. So, with that, I kind of like to see a little bit of elements we share together, the people and the living creatures. The land, as we perceive the land and you know, I just got on probably about maybe 30 minutes ago and I did overhear Commissioner mention the ancestors.

We all have ancestors, you know? From the past that have left footprints and utilized the land for traversing lands and whatnot. They also use which is actually the sun. You know, for our everyday usage and also, the water and the air we breathe today. Our ancestors breathed the same area we're breathing today. The only difference is, when our ancestors came on the land, the air was probably as pure as what water was but through the years, we have adapted to certain improvements of these elements and actually, created certain changes to the atmosphere and today, we're actually living in a world that could very well demise our ability to live a sustainable life. So that's where the antiquities act actually comes in. We still have some issues with objects and values. And sometimes we incorporate different languages and what we perceive as object and what we perceive as values as we come from those objects. So, at a certain point, let me understand one another to where we can actually be able to live according to the creator's way of life. If you want to call it that. Through the years, we have looked at different ways of improving, like one would be the water source. To actually provide sustainability for other regions of our land base and landscaping. So, in so doing with it, actually incorporated recreation areas on the of these rivers and then to this day, you know, some of the laws that were passed, you know, five, six, seven decades ago have impeded some of our natural resources and now we're actually seeing the effects of it. So how do we actually come to terms with that? How do we actually sit down and like, commissioner has said. To be able to sit down and mitigate the situation that we're in and try to understand, you know, what we have done and how we can actually correct some of the issues that we have created.

From the indigenous way, we look at the land as having a spirit. It has to have a spirit because it needs air to function and fire to function and it actually has to have water to function. So, it's something we perceive as a spirit. And a lot of times we don't understand what the magnitude of that spiritual being is within the land. You know, and an example would be Mount Rushmore and the tribes and the hills and the mountains and it was actually their wellbeing and their sustainability and not just for themselves but for future generations to come. And now we have for different Presidents sitting up there. Or just the profile of these Presidents and now it comes, not only then



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

does it become a monument so that's what I mean by how we actually perceive an object when the rock was in a natural state and something that had value in it. Now we have incorporated the chisels of the presidential faces on these rock formations and now it becomes a monument and something to the whole world, that it's something that we see and something that we glorified because it's something new and something that commemorates the ancestors if you will, the President of the United States.

So, we continue to do these things and what gives these areas of monument status, you know, as indigenous people. We look at the land as the monument. All of the objects that are everything, the rock formation, the canyon lands, the mountains, and all of that, they are actually monuments and that's how we perceive the land and it's the same way with the water, the usage of the water. It's alive. It has to have air to flow, and it has to have movement, and when you know, when you sit down long enough and look at the river and but actually, the sound is actually, the water communicating to you. But sometimes, we don't understand that in that way.

Fire is the same way. Fire has to have air to function. It has to have a field to function. We sit there earlier. Commissioner Gibbs mentioned fire cutting. In our world, in the indigenous world, we have different forms of firewood coming out of one tree. And it could be for warmth or heating the home. It could be for maybe, a family gathering where you might have a small fire going out there where you have wiener roast or Hershey chocolate bar and the gram crackers where you actually have unity but during the course of the family sitting around the fire, that fire is communicating with you. Sometimes we don't understand it, you know, and the way that would be burning and then air is the same way. We have different forms of air that is out there. On a windy day, you know, you could actually understand the ability of the wind or not the rain but the wind. So, we just had wind, came the rain and then the snow. So today, we're able to enjoy the snow out there. These are the things we need to really sit down and kind of mitigate what we really mean by objects and values these things provide. Later on, I can just maybe shed a little bit of light on the Christmas tree that commissioner mentioned or the Native American the tribal presentations. We don't have anyone scheduled for that particular hour that is provided for the tribes, but these are things that I believe are something that is critical, you know?

Some of the vegetation out there, that tribes use for herbal medicine. And speaking from experience, you know. I do have a testimony for the use of herbal medicine back in the 90s I had a fractured metatarsal in my right foot. The doctors actually X rayed my foot and told me that the worst thing I could actually have, that I would probably lose my foot. So most likely my foot would be amputated. So, I went home and during the course of my stay at home, I gathered some herbs to actually put on my wound and a few days later, my swelling went down and all of that blood and puss came out of my foot and when I got back to the doctor, you know, the doctor told me that he was surprised that the result of my foot. He said he was going to amputate. He said that all of my meta tar shall bones realigned themselves and the only thing I needed to do is rehabilitate. So that's one testimony that I have to herbal medicine. The second testimony I have to herbal medicine too is that I did sustain a



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

fractured skull. I have 7 titanium plates in my head. Through the juices of the herbal medicine, I could suck it through the straw for one month. I wasn't able to eat because my mouth was wired shut. In that much time, they were able to take the wires out of my jaws and I was able to consume food again and what the doctor indicated, that it would take me six months to a year to go back to work. I went back to work in three months. So, these are things that the indigenous people actually understand about herbal medicine. That's why it's so critical. We try to open doors and we try to open our minds to what some of the indigenous people's teachings are and that way we understand why we need to preserve system of these vegetations and whatnot. It's the same way with the story that we get about changing the trees and I think, the first meeting we had, I talk about a puberty ceremony where the young gal tree, when she runs to the east, west, and to the north and south, she is actually runs around this particular tree.

So that particular tree actually becomes a family member. She is able to reconnect with that particular tree even though she's about maybe 80. And as an elderly, she can say, I want to go back and visit my sister and be able to go back down to that particular tree and actually reconnect and that gives her the longevity of life.

When we start the change between two caterpillar dozers, that to us is demising our cultural heritage and some of the ceremonial rituals. There are other ways of maybe, incorporating tree removals and would benefit not just the landowners or the ranchers or, you know, even the tribes. We can actually introduce something new. And my experience is continuous improvement. We have established a monument that goes back, you know, almost three decades. And through the process, there's been no indigenous input or anything of nature, but we have that ability to have the indigenous teachings incorporated into the land, in the environment and also through the water sources we have. So maybe our next generation, our grandkids can enjoy the land we live on and the fire we all enjoy and the water we all enjoy and then the atmosphere, the air that we all enjoy. And to be able to sustain, not just the human but other creatures on the air, land, and also in the oceans as well. And as the time progresses along, we may be able to actually shed a little bit lighter on what we need by placing this to a small on the mountain. And how this traverses the springs, the rivers and into the ocean and the water which actually shows this world we live on. So, this is something that I believe is very critical because we believe now, that we have the opportunity to join the table of the western way of using the antiquities act. But the antiquities act is always with indigenous people because we respected the land. We respected the firewood. We respected the rivers, and we respected the air. We have never made a document to actually antiquities act. And that's why our language is, and our teachings is verbal but that's all I want to share for today. Maybe later on this afternoon, maybe I can help a little bit on the Christmas tree we're all involved in with this month. Thank you!

>> BILL: Thank you, there's one last presentation which is me and then we can take a break for lunch. So, with that, my name is Bill and I have a Ph.D. in chemistry and molecular biology but I'm presenting on I have three points, one, the broadest inclusion as responsible outdoor recreation in



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

which the public is interested. Two, an absolute commitment to public safety because of the remote and hostile nature of this monument. Safety for visitors, whether they're tourists or recreationalist and the first responders who have to be involved in any kind of emergency. And three, respect for all of the people. Both past and present who make these lands their own. This monument bumps up against my southern fence line so I'm right up against the monument. So, with each of those points I have a little bit to explain.

Point number one, according to both the State of Utah and the U.S. department of commerce, outdoor recreation in southern Utah is considered a consistent, significant driver of economic growth and jobs creation. So, we have a 26-year history of economic and jobs development in Cain and Garfield counties based on tourism and outdoor recreation of the monument which contributes to the overall growth and both Cain and Garfield counties want the growth to continue. For that to continue, there has to be diversity in outdoor recreation activities permitted on this monument as defined by the public's interest levels, not the BLM or any NGO opinions. That may range from ATV, UTV, motorcycles, rock climbing, canyon, and mountain biking. It has to be done responsibly but there has to be diversity. It also requires appropriate and responsible planning and management. We have touched on some of it but what does it mean? Equity of access for each type of recreation as an expectation of the public. It means it also includes access for elderly or disabled or veterans with any accommodation necessary for safety. That could be an ATV or a UTV. And outdoor recreational tourism will continue to develop and evolve requiring monument management to be more proactive and adaptive to the changes. That means more mapping and signing and appropriate management activities. I'm going to give you a quick current example. Disperse outdoor recreation on the monument has changed significantly during the past two years.

With a rampant growth of RV boon docking where anybody parks anywhere, they want. Allowing any established travel around it. It's out of control and it's created significant documented resource damage. That is loving the monument to death, and it has to be managed better. Good models within southern Utah to actively benchmark experience on how to manage these kinds of lands would create BLM recreational lands. Where the general public and county leadership and state are being involved more closely.

Now, in our first meeting I heard some very concerning statements about eliminating or reducing outdoor recreation in our first MAC meeting. Biden's proclamation could be an economy and jobs killer for Cain and Garfield counties. Unless rational leaders at the county level, at the city level, at the state level, and the BLM cooperate and collaborate on a balanced monument management plan that does not discriminate against or dictate limited recreational opportunities. Embrace the opportunities and work with the gate way communities to benefit them. Point number two, we heard a lot about the beneficial effects of getting out on the monument. But there are also well documented hazards and risks in a complicated terrain and environment that exists out there. Multiple injury, multiple deaths, activity induced illness, vehicle and aircraft crashes, vehicular fires and lost visitors are all documented examples of the consequences of this sacred environment. I'm a first responder here. I have personal experience within each of these categories over the past 26 years. Monument



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

management must have cooperative agreements with all first responder organizations that includes fire and rescue and EMS. Not just the county sheriff's department. Responding entities with an emphasis on risk identification and mitigation actions. Biden's proclamation 10286 emphasizes science-based decision making. We talked about it all morning, yet the BLM management ignores or is ignorant to the golden hour concept and the science of emergency medicine. And an injured and sick person must receive definitive treatment within the first 60 minutes within the time of injury or appearance of systems for the most successful outcomes. Dedicated life like helicopter landing zones, administrative roads and any mechanical advantage has to be available to first responders especially undocumented high incidence sites like the calf creek recreation area.

Now, Biden's proclamation, we have talked about the legal documents supporting this advisory committee. Biden's proclamation 10286 clearly states quote, nothing in this proclamation should be construed to alter the authority or responsibility of any party with respect to emergency response activities within the monument. Including fire response. Nothing! Not NEPA, not NGOs or individual ideologies or personal opinions. Nothing! The goal should be the safest possible experience on the monument for anyone. A scientist, a visitor, a recreational or first responder. Finally, the human resident in these lands adjacent to monument both past and present should be respected and understood. All were stewards of these lands and built lives, livelihoods, and local culture from their experience. Current residents of Cain and Garfield counties are the future of this monument so consider the following statements. Monument management plans must support sustainable, economic development and job growth based on that 26-year history of tourism and outdoor recreation.

The emphasis on science must be more transparent and must include much better educational opportunities for all children. From paleontology to range land science but especially for Cain and Garfield children. All communities adjacent to the monument must be treated as gate way communities with better Department of Interior and BLM communication and coordination for the contributions they make. That's a commitment senior Department of Interior officials have made to Congress for decades but hasn't necessarily happened in Cain and Garfield counties regarding this monument.

And finally, residents past and present wish to apply and rely on the applied science of agricultural for din NOUS or who should be collaborated with and listened to. Steve was a perfect example of that this morning. They are day to day, on ground observers of range land health with a vested interest of making ranch land only healthier and they're critical, yearlong operations and employees are critical components of a sustainable economy in both Cain and Garfield counties.

We have 26 years of experience in history. Let's not ignore it. And let's not ignore the lives and livelihoods of the current residents of both Cain and Garfield counties. I would be happy to discuss any of the details behind my comments either with the MAC, general public or BLM. I live here in Escalante; the monument is right beside me. With that, those are my comments. So, we're pretty much right on schedule. It's 11:25. What I would suggest is we start our pretty short lunch break with



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

about 35 minutes. I'm going to remind the public again that if you want to make a public comment later this afternoon, please make sure you're registered to do so. With that, let's take a lunch break. Be back by 12 o'clock noon. And I will introduce the next speaker.

>> Break for lunch

>> HARRY: Hey, Bill! I did see that Drew was able to participate. He got on by phone. We are not able to hear him previously. Do you want to give him just a few minutes before we start so he can do the part he wasn't able to participate in?

>> BILL: Either that or we can stay on schedule and when we have the general discussion, let Drew give his presentation at that time.

>> HARRY: Okay, I'll follow your lead.

>> BILL: That keeps us on schedule. So, with that, I'll introduce Turiya and we made a little bit of a modification here and she'll be more capable of explaining it than me, but original agenda item is to talk about alternatives that have been presented in the RMP. But we're going to kind of switch focus a little bit if I'm not mistaken and talk more about the scoping process that is just been completed. So, with that, I will turn it to you.

>> TURIYA: Okay, great! I'm the planning coordinator for the entire district, including the monument. What I'm going to do today is first, let me kind of explain. There's a whole number of steps and alternatives development and an important one of those steps is the scoping comments that we got based on the notice of intent put out in July. It was out for a sixty-day comment period. The ladder of 30 days of which what we call an AMS was also posted called the assessment of the management situation, looking at current conditions and trends on the monument that may affect how we look at our planning. So an important part of this is taking all of those comments, the comment period closed near the end of September right at the end of September and reframing those comments in terms of groups of types of comments and then actually phrasing kind of an umbrella concern statements that might represent just one person's comment but there might have been ten people who had a similar concern and we would give that language and what we would call the concern statement.

This and other information and including disclosure of what we call the substantive comments are now available since December 6th on a website called E planning. So, I am going to talk about the phase that we're at of looking at those comments and how to find them yourself and migrate that really long document in a way that is more user friendly, perhaps, than might be apparent at first. It's actually fairly simple. So, the stage that we're at right now in alternatives development has been taking those concern statements and seeing how they would affect a range of alternatives. A certain concern maybe we need one alternative that addresses that concern, at least one, so we can analyze the effects and see how meaningful that concern is. So that is the stage we're at. We're not at a stage



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

where we could share, you know, a range of alternatives. We're at a stage where we can tell you the public side of scoping in more detail than we have before. So, I am going to talk, I'm thinking it will be about ten minutes. I'm not sure. And guide you through it and then we'll go into questions and answers. That's where we're currently focusing. That is the external side of scoping and do realize of course, the internal side exists also and in fact, in that AMS, there's a chapter that you can find on E plans, and I'll show you where it is, to look at what the BLM was thinking as concerns up front but those will all get modified and combined together. Okay, so that's basically what I'm going to present. So, what I think I would like to do is screen share. So let me see if I can find my screen share button on Zoom. There it is. I'm going to screen share first what we call the E planning website which is where the planning documents get posted for the public. Those are also in the audience to see these. And then we're going to look at the document together. So, if you can post the first link in the chat Ally, that's a link essentially to this page. When you go to this public page, and you click, you get to another page which has a side bar. It has maps of the planning area, detailed information on how the public gets involved but we're interested in going to the documents link. And when we click on the documents list, this is what we get. This entire page is what we have so far of public facing documents related to this planning process.

So, you'll notice that there are background documents. Always remember you can come here for those. There are background documents in terms of proclamations and et cetera. We're going to go down to scoping because we only had one scoping period so far.

>> BILL: Turiya, you're implying we should be seeing your screen but we're not seeing your screen or I'm not seeing your screen.

>> TURIYA: Thank you so much! Let me click share screen. I didn't bother it. I see I didn't do the second step. Let me make sure I'm clicking the right thing. I want to go to the right place. Here we go. It's this one. I'm glad I waited for a moment. Now you should actually see the are you seeing anything? Let me ask you that. Let me try again, one moment. Oh, let's go back. I didn't take the second step. If this works, you will now see my desktop, sorry. Can you now see the screen with a bunch of documents listed in blue?

>> Yes.

>> TURIYA: I apologize for that. Thank you for pointing it out. So, within this documents page and you can now share the second link, Ally which goes directly here. If you go to this document which is the scoping report, it's the most recently posted document related to scoping. And this is sorted or can be sorted by most recent. Most recently posted. We're going to open up this scoping report. I opened it in Acrobat. So, this is the scoping report. Okay, so what I would like to do is tell you about the content and what it can do to meaningfully inform about where the alternatives may go. If you open it and keep your side bar fully opened on the left, you can see the first chapter explaining how we came to need a scoping comment period. The proclamation from Biden, the new plan, et cetera.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

And then the next section of this which starts on page 19, summarizes the types of submissions and also how we're going to look at dividing up the comments basically. This is a way to address concerns in an orderly manner. We discussed a little bit at the last meeting, I believe I had just some notes I had taken. When this came out on December 6th, it was also, I had reviewed the whole thing, for example, to make sure things are right and work with the contractor but I had not seen the final until the day it was posted on E-planning as well.

So, if you choose to look through chapter 2, it will show you here, comments by issued category. This will show the bucket so to speak, that the comments were divided into. For instance, what is all of the comments and let's see if I can make this a lot bigger. As an example, what comments were there related to alternatives? What comments were there related to public outreach? So, there's several pages of different categories that were used to sort the comments out and the number of comments made within that category is listed in the next column on this table. So that can be very useful. Something that may not be obvious right away and let me see if I can quickly oh, my scroll bar is hidden. How to quickly go to the comments that are on the individual resource basis.

Those fall into a category of comments called issues and analytical framework. So those are kind of some technical words to realize, you want to go to this section issues and analytical framework if you want to see comments specific to a certain resource. I do want to take just a moment and talk about what comments make it into the consideration related to alternatives. So let me see for a moment. I think it's the end of the chapter two. Let's go there. And I'm very limited. Good! Part of my screen was blocked.

At the beginning of chapter two, sorry, chapter three, it talks about what comments are considered within the scope of actually relating to planning. So, this is important. It might relate to some of the considerations also as far as the MAC making advisements and what is permanent. It needs to be in the scope of the planning process itself and make a difference in terms of how the analysis would unfold so this is explained in the beginning page of chapter 3. So, it gives you an example of something out of scope. It says BLM should consider the designation, the wilderness study areas. That's within the purview of scope of this plan. And also, a plan, the comments that are related and very site specific, very site specific, are not relevant either or they are more at the project level and some of the types that occurred were request for surveys, request for detail, more program level planning, some budgetary items were brought up. The comments that were proposed in the first round of reviews internally that might be outside of scope or too site specific. In other words, not pertinent were reviewed by at least two groups. I did a review, some people at the state office tried to be careful with anything that department make it forward. I want to be clear.

Sometimes you hear the word issue statement in terms of analysis that is going to go into the analysis, the alternatives we choose. What is happening here, is we call them concern statements. There hasn't been any judgment passed on whether or to what extent this particular concern is actually an issue that



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

will make it into analysis and again, in the scoping report, you're not going to see BLM additions to particular concerns. The extent to which that's already published is in the AMS. That's where you have the BLM side of this. So, it can seem overwhelming if you open it and realize it's 240 pages long, but less than 100 pages is actually pertinent, other than if you want to read the comments per se by all of the commenters.

So, at chapter three is really the meat. Like I said, the section 3.7 is called issues and analytical framework. It's called analytical framework because these types of concern statements are the framework for analysis. Ultimately, we have true issue statements, and we analyze the issue statements so that's the framework for analysis.

This is just the way that the language works. I want to give one example so you can all make good use of this. Including the public to understand where we're at. If I expand 3.7 like I just did, and there's not a way to make the side bar larger, I apologize for that. If I expand 3.7, and then I start to see resource, air quality, climate change, cultural resources. Having opened up cultural resources, I'm actually going to go to the page and show you what I'm talking about with the report focusing on concern statements. But now I will open it up 3.7.3 and I can make it bigger which is nice for all of us. And so, these are the concern statements. It says issue as a concern statement. How will the BLM protect cultural resources at historic sites? There was at least one commenter who had a comment on that. You can see other ones will say commenters expressed or several commented. Their language was taken, recognized as essentially the same question and the statement unified the different comments so there's a comment summary, and then there's also an associated actually, what would the issue be. This is the summary of conglomerated comments that are all similar and then there's a concern, what I call a concern statement that says issue.

So basically, there is about 50 pages of that. Page 23 is all of these that were gathered from scoping. If people want to verify for themselves, let me collapse section 3.7. Verify themselves or look into more detail, they can go to appendix A. And appendix A has all of the comment texts from the 400 something comments received. And the number of comments received is discussed in the prior chapters, chapter 2. So, you can read exactly what the comment was verbatim and see who wrote it if there's an organizational affiliation and that goes on for the rest of the scoping report, other than appendix B which is simply a committee of the notice of ENT published by the BLM at the very end of July. So let me stop sharing. The process is those are all assessed in terms of how they would inform arrange of alternatives, along with BLM's expertise on what would make a good range of alternatives and of course, everything, I think, as we have discussed, especially in the very first MAC meeting. We need to frame them to meet the purpose and need. If they don't meet the purpose and need, they'll probably be dismissed and certainly will not be analyzed if they clearly don't.

If it's not clear how well they will or not, we need an analysis, and those comments can occur anywhere in the spectrum of alternatives. There were some comments that have broad implications, and you can see it at the scoping report. So fairly simple but I thought if I showed people the website



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

and what is available there and looked at the scoping report briefly in terms of how to navigate, again, probably of what you're mostly interested in, chapter 3, resource by resource, what are the types of comments we got and when are the concern statements.

So, I think that's what I have to present. Shorter than usual and I as well as Harry can answer questions. I will field those, and we can go at most until a quarter to one. I am not sure whose hand up went first: I apologize if it's not a good order. Joel, do you want to go ahead?

>> JOEL: Sarah's hand is up first.

>> TURIYA: Thank you! I wasn't able to see that.

>> SARAH: Thank you, Turiya. That's helpful to have the comments. I had a couple of questions. I know that there was a group of organization that also includes some scientists with specific expertise that submitted comments as a coalition which may poke joy, from the Grand Canyon trust is the submitter and I know you mentioned from chapter two, the number of comments is calculated. I wanted to know if there's any place in this document that recognizes the organizations that were a part of that coalition of comments. And whether they were registered as individual comments or one?

>> TURIYA: If it's one submission, it's a comment. So, any NGO, even if it's not a coalition of scientists. So, in chapter three, there's a column that would acknowledge the example you gave. Mike poke joy is a submitted and is associated with the Grand Canyon trust. As these things are considered, of course, they are vetted in terms of it isn't that someone is automatically vetted as good or bad, everyone is vetted.

>> SARAH: I just wanted to clarify it. I was not questioning sort of the association but what I was saying is there's a concerted effort by I think, maybe ten different organizations that work together on comments that were submitted and each organization signed off on the comments so my point is that I just, more for chapter two, that it was a group submission with each of those organizations signed off of those comments, that's my point. So, I would imagine, since there's multiple organizations, they would be registered as making those comments. That's my point. And there was official sign off from those organizations on those comments.

>> TURIYA: I can't answer in great detail but if you're concerned about weight of consideration, let's just remember, we don't want to use too much of our time to say, oh, it's this many counties because there's no voting process here whatsoever. Everything is vetted on merit. So, with that said, on the internal side, of course, we're looking to see what certain types of parties are saying, especially with anyone we have ongoing relationships with because we want to develop them with the county or with NGOs.

How can I say it? It's acknowledged there's a representative agent, representative organization. For



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

instance, even like something legal. It might be one NGO and another NGO is on the letter, but the one NGO submits, we know you're all there but it's the one we reach out to. It's the one whose address is used. I would not put much concern as to something being properly weighted. We will take notice for sure of everyone signed in. And the quality of the information that is really what matters. If that helps.

>> Okay, and I think there's some comments in the chat. The other thing I want to ask, and I know, I don't want to take too much time, but you mentioned request for surveys or inventories. One of the things I thought we were going to talk about at this MAC meeting is the science plan. I know it was discussed via e-mail by the agenda but didn't seem to make it on here. So, I would imagine that surveys and inventories would be relevant to monitoring the science plans so I'm wondering if we can get any update on the science plan?

>> TURIYA: I hate to interpret at all, but I know Bill wants to stay on time, so I try, and I talk a lot. So, there will not be anything at this meeting presented to you about the science plan. Let me be very clear. There are many things they can look at. Standard and nonstandard things that would be acceptable and those range from a science plan being purely a description of an administrative program, clear into a lot of detail about what science must be used and we, it's not clear yet, what this science plan will exactly look like.

So do realize that there are varying philosophies and examples of what is in a science plan. So it could be that a science plan simply says certain types of inventories will be maintain by the program but maybe it wouldn't. I can't speak to it, and I can see Harry just showed his face, so I'll let him continue to answer that question.

>> HARRY: Yes, Turiya, you're spot on. We're working with individuals to put together a science plan and a couple of scientists to put together a science plan. It's up to me now to take a look at a proposal presented to us. We're looking at it. Our state office is looking at that so part of the problem, not really a problem but we're working hard and fast on trying to put together the resource management plan and not doing the science plan. I suspect by the next MAC meeting; we can give you a more thorough update on where we're at with the science plan.

>> TURIYA: I apologize. That's even more news than I brought to you weeks ago. Other questions? Oh, I muted Bill. Go ahead.

>> JOEL: Yes, so sort of the clarification. Turiya, you clarified the scoping process which by the way is an amazing amount of work. I'm really appreciative about the incredibly amount of work that document is and all of those comments. You stated that's the step before you would get towards developing alternatives. And so just a clarification, at our last meeting in October, we saw the preliminary range of alternatives. So just to understand the process, this scoping process, will you probably use the preliminary range of alternatives we have seen, at least as the draft you can continue



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

to edit based on these?

>> TURIYA: Yes, it's definitely an iterative process. So, we have been, with everything that we get, part of which is internal scoping also, continued to iterate. And with feedback from higher levels of BLM and now these comments will be a major iteration but we haven't come up with anything else yet that is concurred high enough to share anything. And we are just beginning to integrate these comments. This is not yes.

>> JOEL: I was just worried you would start from scratch.

>> TURIYA: No, it's all iterative.

>> BILL: Turiya, I have a couple of questions really quick. I'm looking at table 1 to 2 cooperating agency outreach status and agreement. My issue is with the individual gate way communities so the cities that surround or adjacent to the monument and none of them appear as a cooperating agency. I know some of them participating specifically in the scoping meetings that were done in Escalante. How does that information get incorporated or does it?

>> TURIYA: Dave, I think it's good if you can speak to it. What I will say is that these terms, if you look at table that relates to comments, there's one of the lines in table 2 1 that says collaboration coordination partnerships and then underneath it says cooperating agencies, government to government consultation. There's a pallet of words that mean technically different things and there's requirements to qualify in those different categories and I'm wondering Dave, can you speak to just that general concept. Are you available?

>> ADÉ: To answer that question, those gate way communities absolutely, as far as like the cities and the towns, they would meet those parameters of cooperating agency. We did extend invitations and we have passed along information to the counties because they have that same question as well but it's a matter of those entities reaching out to BLM to request for cooperating agencies participation status and at that point, we would then produce an MOU in which the city would have to sign that MOU to then join and participate as a cooperating agency throughout this time.

>> BILL: I don't think a day, and Turiya, that the individual communities and I am in Escalante so I can speak for Escalante. I don't think they understand they needed to do that. And there's got to be a better way to make sure that connection is made. They need to be a part of this for the very reason they're defined as a gate way community. You, you, the BLM relies on them to provide services and access to the things that you don't want to occur on the monument, but you wanted to occur in the city or in the gate way community.

Often at taxpayer expense so there's got to be a way to connect to them and it shouldn't be too late. That you should be able to still reach out. And it should be any city or town that is on highway 12 or 89. Any city that borders the monument.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> ADÉ: We can absolutely send out an e-mail inviting them to participate as that it would then put the ball in their court to say, to then respond and request cooperating agency status. So, I will have to check my contacts to see if those contracts are up to date. I know in the past city has been a part of the other planning processes and such. So, if I could maybe vet that list from, I guess, I will vet that list and then let you know the outcome of that, but I will make a note and make a commitment to reach out.

>> BILL: Okay, I appreciate that. The second question I have Turiya is, I'm looking at table 1.3 unique submissions by affiliation. And it looks like there's 416. Then you quantify the actual submissions whether or not they were unique either by e-mail or mail and whether they were a form letter. Is the takeaway message from that don't send form letters to the BLM? You're on mute.

>> TURIYA: The takeaway from that is, if someone said to me, why are you doing scoping? We're getting to scope to get new information. Counting how many people said, there's no voting process. The form letter is the same information, so it helps us to know how much new information we're getting. If it's meaningful and different, it's accounted for. It's not just a form letter.

>> SHEA: No idea if I was next or not but just quickly, does the BLM plan to respond to each specific comment eventually or is this just kind of an information gathering exercise? Is there a response component to it?

>> TURIYA: Not at this point and not at the level of EA. It's the level of the bucket of the type of comment that is there. We are responsible to show in an NEPA process, that we consider comments and sometimes it's to answer it. I hear what you're saying. The meaningful response in my view, the way I would look at NEPA. If there's a comment submitted, and it is substantive and it's relevant to analysis, your response essentially really at a deeper level is what the analysis shows. And when you see the DEIS, if you feel somehow, something that was substantive was not answered, that would be a problem. Let see, we have 7 more minutes. I'm sorry if I'm not seeing the whole panel on my screen. I can see Sarah has her hand up. But does anyone else? It doesn't appear so. Sarah, go ahead.

>> SARAH: Two points. Because I thought this presentation is an update on the alternative analysis, I don't think myself or other committee members are prepared to give full comment on the scoping comment document. I don't know if that was what is being asked of us here. So, I just want to point it out. And then the other thing is, whatever action takes place as far as additional outreach in terms of cooperation agency, that it's applied to the tribes and pueblo who may or may not be participating at that level. And those are my two comments, thank you!

>> TURIYA: I will say something general. As far as the tribes, as I mentioned, for tribes, there's different types of aspects of engagement, right? There's government to government, there's 106, there's, et cetera. Et cetera. Some discussions where we had early on how the overlapped with one



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

another and outreach was made. We thought to all of the appropriate tribes. Could you say more about it? You're closer to it.

>> ADÉ: Yes, so we did send out cooperating agency invitations to all tribes named in the proclamation. In addition to that, we also extended it to the pueblo's that were not named, for example, pueblo and we did only receive correspondence, back accepting the cooperating agency status and participation from the Hope, Navajo nation, and the ban.

>> SARAH: My comment is if there's additional. I agree that the gate way community should be participating at that level, and I just said, my point is that if there's going to be an additional level of outreach to try to really support that type of engagement, but it also goes out to the tribes and Pueblos as part of that. Which all ones are currently not participating just to give them the opportunity as well.

>> ADÉ: It was more than just one initial outreach. We have continued different parts since the beginning. I believe we started in June. And I believe we have sent out 3 or 4 different follow up. e-mails just to remind you because we know there's a substantial amount of work and correspondence that occurs with those tribes and they may not have the resources to respond so quickly. So, we do quickly engage in that format as well as we have also extended and reached out to those same tribes to initiate government to government. Recognizing that's outside of the cooperating agency process and we have not received any additional correspondence to those channels as well.

>> HARRY: In our planning effort of several years ago, we tried to expand the tribal consultation, the groups we were reaching out to, the pueblos we were reaching out to. We had some success. We tried to do it again this time but like Ade was just referring to, we don't get a lot of response back. That doesn't mean we're going to quit trying. We'll touch on it when I talk about the meeting we had here, the tribal listening session. We continued to reach out, expanded this go around and we won't give up.

>> TURIYA: Okay, I'm not seeing any hands up. We will have three more minutes if anyone has anything else they would like to raise for me, or Harry or Ade.

>> BILL: This right off the top of my head and you can set me strait, but I was trying to find the proclamation or the interim guidance document. There was a reference to what has been made up multiple times today of an inventory of objects, cultural values, whatever. And I thought it was actually dated to have been accomplished by the end of this year. It seems there's a need for that especially as you're developing alternatives. And am I right or wrong? Or going the wrong direction?

>> TURIYA: I'm so sorry. My computer is misbehaving. You're absolutely right! There's a deadline and the BLM has been working on it and there's nothing released on the public side, yet. You're correct. There's a requirement and commitment. There are some other requirements that have already



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

passed that we have taken care of such as

>> BILL: Isn't that something that is an important component for at least consideration for the alternative development?

>> TURIYA: Yes, to clarify you said something like object and possible cultural values, we're calling it resource objects and values so you might have an object like a water fall or a certain set of cliffs but also, there's certain types of values like solitude and so forth so you're correct. The thing that is important. It may not be that the issue statements and analysis is particularly saying this object, we're going to analyze. For this object, but they're implicit in the concerns and in the issue statements. And we have to know a fair amount in order to do the analysis. That's absolutely correct.

>> And I think from my own standpoint, we heard it throughout the committee this morning. We need to understand that inventory. So, we can just put in the proper context with any of the alternatives offered.

>> Turiya: My understanding is there's a point at which a version of that would be released but I can tell you this. It comes directly out of the proclamation. So, if you read it line by line and start write down what it calls out, those are the object and values. They're not being highly reconceptualized. So that's what you will expect to see. And this proclamation compared to the first one under Clinton is really long. So, there's just a lot to dial out and figure out how we would quantify it, you know? Are we going to quantify but this number of dinosaur sites or geological formation that occurs. There's a lot of thinking in that. So now I need to leave it to you Bill because there's two more people with their hands up. Do you want us to end now?

>> BILL: We're flowing. Try to keep it to one question. Then let's move on. Thank you!

>> TURIYA: And I'll give time at the end of the day if Harry wants to clarify responses I have given. I don't know who put their hand up first but Shea or Sarah.

>> SARAH: I think it was Shea.

>> SHEA: Thank you! And maybe this is for later, but I just wanted to hear more about this inventory and kind of the process you're using to evaluate and create it. I know there's things in the proclamation like old plateaus or multihued cliffs. Is your process just to go look for every plateau? And then you consider it a bold plateau, an object? What is the process for those? Generic terms?

>> TURIYA: I'm going to make it brief. But if one looks closely at the paragraphs and the proclamation, sometimes you can tell. If they mean the whole monument or just a circle cliffs area or whatever. So, we're definitely noticing that. And we're using the interdisciplinary approach with guidance from higher up. Also, but what that means is, if it's it seems the best we can read, that it's



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

talking about the visual value of something, we go to the visual resources specialist and try to figure it out. If it looks like it's talking about it from a paleontologist, we go there. So, we're using the interdisciplinary approach also to understand with the proclamation is trying to say. Is that good enough for right now? Thank you! We're trying. Sarah?

>> SARAH: So, I will try to keep it quick. I totally agree with Bill that list and inventory would be super helpful and also from the process perspective, I know that they need to go through a certain process that has already been established and not in response to this being a monument. But it seems like you would start with that. I mean, the idea is that you would have a list of objects and values and then understand, you know, purpose, and need better to actually create the alternatives and then, whether it goes in this way. But for us to make any type of real comments or recommendations, it just feels like, you know, I know you said you can look at the proclamation, but we need to be on the same page of what it looks like. So, we're able to actually work together on this.

>> TURIYA: I will say a little bit more and then we're going to end but I will pass it both to Ade and Harry. Especially Ade if she wants to make comment because we have been involving indeed that work and it's ongoing. I do not mean to be dismissive whatsoever. I totally agree with you. If we had five years to do a plan, it would be worth spending half of a dozen on just that. It's 2 million acres. The ask to inventory 2 million acres, where some of the values are even moving around, like, say some type of lizard and it migrates over there, this is not simple. I want to assure you we're taking it very seriously and we're trying to, you know, when you do project management, you talk about how certain things have to happen in series and certain things can happen in parallel. We're having to do a much parallel as we can. People worry, only two years, is it adequate? Someone who would like normally to be involved in all of the projects happening at the district, this is almost all I'm doing and likewise for many other people. So, we're giving it a lot of attention and I hear your point. I think that we feel very similarly. We'll be relieved when we're further ahead with it but there's things we can move ahead and do in the meantime and needed to. So, I hear your point. Like, Shea pointed out. We have been given certain deadlines and even the deadline to have it done within the time period allotted is challenging. And I would like an Ade or Harry can speak to it a little. Thank you.

>> ADÉ: And just to remind everyone and bring to the top of the forefront of this conversation, is that we are in the process of developing an initial inventory so we're trying to take what is included in the proclamation and put it on paper and identify the specific issues and like Turiya said, it's taken quite a bit of input not only from our local IDT but also through the state office to identify these and the intent is to continue to refine this inventory as we move forward. Because this inventory will help the BLM, I'm sorry. My screen just went black.

Inventory will include sacred and rare and vulnerable object and help and assist BLM in adequately addressing whether the existing or proposed activities are used are consistent with the proclamation. And in those objects that were identified. So, there's a lot of sensitive data that will be included in what will be considered BLM's internal inventory of the object. So, we don't intend to provide the



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

entire inventory, but we do intend to develop a shareable list of the monument objects and share that with cooperating agencies, the public, stakeholders, tribal nations as we move forward but we're very well moving along nicely, and we recognize the interim guidance provided a deadline and that the deadline is associated with the initial inventory. We're working through it and hope to have something shared by the next time we meet.

>> HARRY: Maybe in closing as we move into the next subject unless there's something else to talk about here, like Ade said, we're moving forward trying to produce this inventory. There were a number of things that kind of dropped on our planning plates when this process started that we weren't even sure how we were going to get it done. We weren't even sure what was expected of us. This is one of the things. There were homework assignments that say, by these dates, you're going to have this inventory and we were not sure what to put on the inventory or get it started. So, it did take a lot of work with our leadership, state office leadership and specialists to figure out what kind of inventory we need to put together and how we were going to put it together. So, I appreciate that you have the questions and you're asking some of the same questions that we asked early on. What kind of inventory are we putting together and how are we creating that. Hopefully that's something you can see.

>> I just want to say to you, because Bill, since you're running this meeting, someone pointed out that Hank wouldn't have a way to raise his hand. I wanted to point it out in case he has questions you want to give time for.

>> BILL: Hank, I didn't realize that. Hank, if you want to input or ask questions, feel free to unmute your microphone and shout it out.

>> HOST: Just as a reminder, it's star nine that will unmute you and you can join in on the conversation.

>> BILL: Great! Okay, is that a wrap? We'll to the next one. He and Ade and hank were involved in cultural training earlier in November and Harry, I'll let you lead the discussion on this.

>> HARRY: That's fine. Thank you. We're switching things up a little bit. The cultural training, we had talked about and hank, I hope you're still on board and listening and you'll jump in and participate. I was going to ask you to do it in a minute or two. So, for today's effort, we had a block of time now and a block later. The training as we wanted to portray it didn't come together quick enough like we wanted to be able to present it here so we visited about what we might do to still live up to the spirit of recognizing the cultural values that the monument has. I thought what we would do rather than the training is to talk about a meeting we held here.

It was a co stewardship meeting in which several tribes, I think, 11 tribes are invited to participate, and I would like to talk about that. I think what we have learned there, can be considered at some



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

level training. These training for at least some of us. And I want to back up to what we talked about a little bit earlier. I think Sarah, it was your question. Perhaps, we're talking about reaching out its tribes and how we were doing that. I think, Ade gave us an explanation and Turiya gave one for that. I want to back up a little bit. In our last planning effort, our then state director Ed had asked us here in the monument to expand a little bit in terms of our connections to some of the tribes. That might feel some affiliation with grand staircase Escalante monument.

So Matt was our archaeologist at the time. And Matt and I, we traveled to New Mexico and visited three tribes. We went to SDOON knee, and pueblo. For us, for the monument, that was a stretch. We hadn't gone that far before to seek comments or portray information that had be with planning effort. We haven't gone that far. We usually deal with the (inaudible) Hope and Navajo, generally the folks around here. That's an effort we made to try to expand. Jump ahead to this effort, and Ade mentioned the letters we sent out, we're trying to expand again. We want to work closer with the tribes. As part of that, we received word some months ago from our Washington leadership that we were going to hold a meeting here that was going to discuss yet another level of this communication. We did what we did in the last planning effort. We went and visited New Mexico and in this current planning effort, we sent out a few more letters but now we, in addition to that, we added in this meeting. We did have a meeting. That meeting was held November 10th. Thursday, November 10th, we held in the building. I wanted to discuss who is in attendance of that meeting. That would give you a flavor of who was here and what was talked about. The meeting was all day. We had Malcolm who is a council representative with the mountain youth tribe. DA VEE that Smith and I hope you're on now. It seems like I saw your name earlier. She's with grand staircase Escalante partner board member. She's also Navajo tribe. We had Eric, anthropologist from the Navajo nation, Melinda Navajo cultural specialist from the Navajo nation, Michael Lewis, government and legislative nation, culture resource tribe of Utah. Richard, tribal historic preservation officer, Navajo nation, hank Stevens Navajo nation.

Now, a lot of these individuals are not able to be here in person. We did this as a Zoom meeting set up as well as having an operation here where you could come here and be in person. From BIA we had Sam who was a senior counselor to the assistant secretary at the Department of Interior with the bureau of Indian affairs and then we had BLM representatives, deputy director of policy and programs, Alex special assistant office of the director, state director Greg was here and I want to point out as Ed in our previous planning effort asked us to explain our efforts to work with the tribes, Greg, our current state director is also asking us to expand this effort. I was present, Ade was present, Sandra our current archaeologist and I think she's on this meeting. Participated today. She was in the meeting. Dr. Allen tide, and David was there, helping us and then Sarah, you were in that meeting as well. So, what I'm hoping to do today for the next little while, is give some perspective and talk a little bit about my notes on how I felt that meeting went. What we might be able to do in the future to Garner more participation in the meeting and then also talk a little bit about what we learned in the meeting and again, I hope Davina.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Before I jump in my notes, I wanted to go back a little bit to what Hank mentioned today. Often time bureaucrats working for the BLM get so involved in what we have to do. We have to write a plan. We have a certain amount of time to get the plan done. It was interesting to me that several weeks ago I went to Price, Utah to be in the Utah leadership team meeting, state director, associates state director, basically the Utah leadership met in Price. We met for the better part of a week to talk about issues related to Utah. We talked about our planning effort. We talked about the barriers planning effort. And something that came up in there, it was mentioned that sometimes as managers, with get so involved in everything that has to get done, that we sometimes forget that we're doing all of this for the land. We're managing all of these acres and if we don't pay attention, we get so busy in the bit of writing and interpreting data. So, I want to tie it into what Hank mentioned this morning. He talked about the closeness, the relationship that the tribes have with the land. And I think that is something that I learned in that meeting is that sometimes I forget because we get so busy reviewing and writing documents and trying to get them approved, that we forget it's for the land. That big part of the co stewardship meeting is a discussion on how important the land is to all of us.

Generally speaking, there were some thoughts that came out of that meeting about tribal participation. This is our first meeting. Our first co stewardship meeting. To my knowledge, and I have been here at Grand Staircase national monument for about 26 years. Recall a meeting where we invited so many people and tried to generate thoughts on how we manage the Staircase Escalante national monument. It was the first meeting.

So, like first meetings can be sometimes, we didn't generate the participation that we would have liked to. I think it will change. I think Hank pointed it out. I think Malcolm pointed it out and several others that as you look around the table here, there were certainly available chairs for other tribes to come in and participate and then on the Zoom piece, there was opportunity to further participate but for whatever reason, we didn't get a lot of participation. We got good participation from those who are here but, in the future, as we get the word out and continue to have these meetings where we talk about co stewardship opportunities, we'll see more participation. I want to look at kind of staying with this idea that sometimes as federal employees we forget really what it is that we're managing. I want to read some of my notes and is there a way to tell we know Hank is on. Davina are you on? Are you participating?

>> HOST: I do see Davina's name in the attendee list.

>> HARRY: As long as Davina can hear us. If I hear their name or Hank's name, I don't want to misquote them. But Hank had pointed out that we need to do something to get more people to the meetings. I thought that was great! We talk talked about engaging a younger generation. Trying to engage our youth in some of these things we're talking about. Everybody talked about cultural beliefs, sometimes again in our effort to get document completed and workloads, we don't always take into consideration, as best as we can the cultural reliefs and aspect that we're trying to incorporate.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

It was mentioned Hank, you may have made this comment. That there's been some disconnection for two decades. I think it may have been in reference to the idea that the reference has been around now for 26 years and we're still trying to figure out how to get connected and how to get tribal perspectives and I think it may be a reference to that. Hank, you also talked about derogatory names and revisiting the whole idea of names. Davina, you brought it up as well. We did mention in terms of derogatory names, we have made some changes. Recently, the U.S. GS, United States geological survey did do a review of the maps that make up Staircase Escalante monument and pointed out to us several names that need to be changed. I think that's in the works but beyond that, beyond the derogatory names, in this meeting we also discussed names that are not necessarily derogatory. But they're just names that maybe we placed on an area or a rock feature that perhaps, the hope or the Navajo or pueblo, if you look at their culture, their cultural beliefs, that rock formation would have a different name. So that's something we talked about.

Malcolm talked about the relationship of the land and the animals. The sacredness of animals. My background is in wildlife management and wildlife biology. I spent a great deal of my career, my younger part of my career, trapping and relocating desert big horn sheep, mountain big horn sheep, black bears, Turkeys, otters and a number of other animals but a lot of times again, we do it as an effort to reestablish a population but we may not see the cultural or traditional nuances associated with those animals and as an example, when we're visiting with ZUNE. They pointed out to me, that it's one thing to go out and see something in your face like a rock panel, bush, or pictograph but as someone else pointed out to us, there's things on the landscape we may not be aware of, that they would be aware of.

They specifically mentioned the idea of wildlife shrines and more specifically, on Staircase Escalante monument, there may be shrines erected to certain animal's light big horn sheep. Just because I'm a wildlife biologist or used to be, I can tell you what a big horn sheep looks like and the difference between a desert big horn and a mountain big horn, but I don't know what these shrines look like. This is some information we have to figure out how to incorporate in what we're doing on this land so we're not negatively impacting shrines.

Malcolm pointed out the landscape. He pointed out something interesting to me about ancestors speaking through the writings on the rock, the pet GRIFs. We have many rock panels, all of these, so it's interesting he pointed out that ancestors speak through those. Davina, you pointed out you have a big passion for building bridges, and I think we're going to try to work closer with you in the future to build some of those bridges. I think in terms and again, this gets back Sarah to your comment earlier about reaching out and reaching out to the tribes. Part of that is just bridge building. Trying to get information going back and forth that we use as we try to write the resource management plan, science plans, as we try to use the tribes to help us with these efforts, we need to be able to build bridges.

Davina, you pointed out, our meeting is one of many meetings. You actually said, one of many more meetings. And we are currently working with our leadership to try to figure out how many of these



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

meetings we should have in a year, how often we should meet, where we should meet, what the subject matter will be. Going back to Hank, you pointed out again, the tribes are keeping quiet. That there's a disconnect. And we need to figure out how to get over the disconnect because we want to hear from everybody and hear we invited 11 tribes but didn't get the full participation in all 11 tribes, so we need to figure out how to get over the disconnect.

Hank you also pointed out that the land is a spiritual component. And I like that idea. Too often, we get so involved in the planning piece we forget about that. Hank, you talked about the panel. The pictograph panel we have over on the Escalante area. East area, 100 hands. And you talked about what was used to preserve that for so long. And that led into a discussion on plants, a discussion on the sacredness of those items like the plants and what they can be used for.

You spoke earlier about medicinal purposes for some of those plants. But I thought about your comment on hundred hands. Some of those pictographs they have been in place for -- sand or, if you're bored you can correct me, but 1200, 1300, 1400 years or something like that. So, it's interesting to think about what it was they use to make that last so long. And then Sam talked about co-stewardship. Again, that is Sam Cohen, he is a senior counselor to the assistant secretary Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs. You talked about the co-stewardship use, what it means to define collaborative management. I'm almost done with this part of my notes. Hank, you talked about identifying traditional names again looking at different locations and specifically you talked about a location in Arizona.

That was renamed a couple of years ago. Divina, you talked about a trouble coalition and possibly developing coalition or at least a group that would look at co-stewardship. For Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Those are a few of my handwritten notes. But we also had some typed written notes. Some of those the key takeaways that came out of this meeting hunting opportunities. I think several times we heard the Tribes would like some opportunity to be able to do some type of hunting. A hunch that is just for them to be able to go out on Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and hunt and since that meeting, we did look at a couple of references. These Shoshone game hunting rights on Federal lands. There is a reference to that. Northwestern band of Shoshone nation signs Utah hunting fishing agreement November 18, 2022. So, we are going to continue to look at things like that to see if something like that can be incorporated.

The place names. We touched on the derogatory names. We touched on other traditional names. I think Hank the one that you were talking about -- I don't want to butcher the name but there was a woman in the military I think she died in a battle of some sort in I rack. The peak in Arizona was renamed to her name. PS Tele perhaps. But that was one reference to a name that was changed. Another take was access for traditional gathering of plants. There were lots of stories about the importance of plants and again Hank used one of those stories this morning on the importance of plants.

We need to continue that discussion of the importance of plants specifically some of those that were



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

talked about tobacco and how this is important for ceremonies and spiritual connections. Grazing. We talked about grazing potential. And putting together an exchange program. We discussed the desire to work with local commissioners, local ranchers, to develop a grazing exchange program. That limits barrier and mutual educates all parties. I think Stephen gets back to let about what you're talking about. We talked about joint secretarial order and fulfilling the trust responsibility Indian Tribes and the stewardship of Federal lands and as that relates to maybe this grazing exchange program. We talked about traditional foods. We discussed the importance of traditional food sources. Hank, I think you talked about tubers and potatoes. We talked about a youth movement seeking to reconnect with traditional foods and farming. Those resources. There's a program called next two, it's a mentoring program. Which could be useful to bring use to Grand Staircase, that's an Arizona program but maybe we can look at using it here. We talked about youth education and involvement in local chapters, local organizations that are here close to us.

Maybe even our partners group. Other topics we talked about the connections to monument lands, wildlife mitigation. Mining. Evidence of arsenic in water. We talked about scientific studies that we could do to look a little closer at that. And then probably the biggest reason we got together was to talk about co-stewardship. We discussed the intent to create a diverse clammed of stewardship like it pierced ears. Bears is cooperative agreement. We talked about co-stewardship being an umbrella term but encompassing various project between DOI and Tribal Nations.

We talked about Tribal co-stewardship in meetings opportunities discuss what we all hope to create. Not just the people in this meeting but these other Tribes that we are hoping will start to participate and we talked about the science plan. I do see the MAC participating in that. Maybe a MAC member and we haven't figured that part out of. Bill come that something I would like to talk to you about in the future. I also see an opportunity for Tribal member to help us in that science plan.

I mentioned earlier that we are working on a science plan. We do not have all of the nuts and bolts of that down. There are a couple of scientists that I am visiting with that are reviewing some items for us. Giving us information. We are also working with our Washington leadership and individuals there that work in the science arena to make sure that the plan that we put together is going to be the right plan. So, we still have a way to go on that. I don't want to try to for you on that. We are trying to write the Resource Management Plan and trying to do a science plan together. I really need to put my effort right now mostly in the Resource Management Plan. But we are trying to keep the science plan moving forward as best we can. Those are my notes. On that meeting. We learned a lot in that meeting. I think for me before I turn it over to Hank and then Divina and to Sarah to get their input for me, I learned that we need to pay a lot closer attention to the Tribes and get input from the Tribes. And try to learn how to incorporate that input as we produce these documents. I see more of these meetings happening. I don't know how often we will have the meetings. I am working with our leadership to determine that.

But certainly, we are going to have our meetings. Hank, I am hoping that you might have some words of wisdom for us and since you are a big part of this meeting maybe you can give us your perspective on it.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> HANK: Thank you, here. Good afternoon, everyone. As Harry mentioned we did have an all-day discussion on November 10-- and it was well received and one of the things that we all learn from that is that we are able to actually provide [inaudible] cultural training with different agencies where there is a will and need for and I know there are a lot of issues within the monument as MAC committee members we -- iterating what I was saying we have to put our minds and try to understand one another. And what Harry alluded to be a peak in Scottsdale Arizona which had a name, squaw peak, and through some of our leadership through the state of Arizona we were able to introduce another name for that particular peak. And it's sad have to tell a story like this to let these things come forth. But as Harry alluded there was a young gal, she was only 23 years old, she had two kids and she was from Hopi and her name was Lori PS Goa and she enlisted in the military, the Armed Forces, and sadly she gave her life during the Iraq war.

She was the first Native American casualty within these disputes and warfare that our country gets involved in. But with that we lobbied the state of Arizona to actually remove that particular name from that peak in Scottsdale and in essence we renamed it PS Goa peak and there's also a freeway that actually runs within Scottsdale that is actually called PS Goa freeway also. We don't really need to have something like that happen for us to acknowledge the females in our lives. And a lot of times we make decisions prematurely assuming that we have [inaudible] make certain decisions and I think that is where [inaudible] and confrontations with different entities is very important. And earlier I was talking about maybe shedding some light on the Christmas tree since this is the season for it and I know a lot of you folks have been out there and maybe Christmas tree hunting and also maybe going to Sam's Club or Walmart and buying artificial trees to actually commemorate Christmas activities here in America and globally.

So, one thing that always comes to mind when I talk about trees is that some people in our nation are kind of curious why the Native American people perceive a tree as a monument. And it is kind of disturbing sometimes but then it kind of goes back to what I was talking about when we become leaders, we tend to make decisions and we really don't understand the magnitude of a tree. So today I kind of wanted to enlighten everyone on an object. Archery is an object. We can use it in different forms, and we can idolize that, we can actually portray it as a spiritual being or as something that is holy or even to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. In this new world that we live in. And I don't want to separate the Indigenous world and the Western world. I want to look at the whole scope of these United States.

So, when we look at the tree as an object, I want to shed a little bit of light on how we actually go out in the mountains, or we might go to a Christmas tree farm, and we actually cut the Christmas tree. We actually disconnect this particular tree from Mother Earth. So, we can take it home and decorate it and to us it is an annual practice. It comes every 365 days a year. On December 25. We are all going to have a Christmas tree in the house. I haven't artificial tree right here now. And I cherish the grandkids. They come in and they look for their presence and it's in every year practice. So, we



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

welcome this particular tree into our home. We stand it up and we decorate it. Or we take it to may be a worship place, a church, or we take it to a Federal or state building. We even have a Christmas tree at the capital. Here in Washington. And we praise it, and it is a monument. And then we look at the difference I. We use the same particular tree, and I mentioned this in some of our meetings. We actually use a tree in our ceremonies our [inaudible] ceremony or the [inaudible] that has this turn into a woman. She has transitioned from a young girl to a young woman. And this particular tree I think it stands out there on the landscape and [inaudible] with the songs and blessings. That's what we do to the Christmas tree. We sing the Christmas carols. We have prayers. And in our family homes when we're having dinner or before dinner or even after. But the difference between the two is that the Christmas tree actually represents the birth of Christ. In the Indigenous world that particular tree as we commemorate the female, the woman that provides the offspring, the children, and that lifecycle is infinity. It goes on. It continues forever. The longevity of like. -- life. And we also welcome this particular tree into our family. Not our home about our family. And we have all of the gatherings of family members with both of these trees. The Christmas tree and also the tree that the young girl uses for this particular ceremony.

There is a sharing of gifts, there is sharing of things. And during Christmas you know there is a sharing of love, there is a sharing of different songs. There is sharing of [inaudible] and in the Indigenous world there is a sharing of songs, prayers, and thankfulness. And in both cases, it is family unity. So, both worlds don't really appreciate one another. There is really no difference. But in the Indigenous world this particular tree continues to live on. It is not cut. So, this young girl when she matures, when she has her own kids, she might have a daughter and she can actually introduce her daughter to this particular tree.

And she may also use it during the [inaudible] for her own puberty ceremony. Or the granddaughter that she has. So, in our values to the street or this particular object it is infinity. It grows, it grows with the young girl and can maturity into an elderly woman. It can requite herself with this particular tree as she pleases. She can talk this particular tree [inaudible] she might sing a song she might say a prayer. But the growth continues not just for the girl that had her first purity sermon but the daughter that she has and also the grandkids or the great grandkids. Then for some of us like I said earlier for myself I have an artificial tree sitting here. All I am doing is improvising. I just have a tree that is artificially made of different material, and I will decorate it and just assume that it is a tree.

Even though it is not a tree. But the only reason I don't -- the only reason that I use an artificial tree is because I don't want to go out there and cut a tree. Down. Because I'm only going to use it for maybe 30 days within December. And then come January 1st I will take all of the decoration off and box it all up and put it back in storage and what am I going to do with the tree? Maybe I would just throw it out there in the street and have the garbage people come pick it up.

Or it ends up in a landfill with all of the garbage. And just earlier a few days ago I was worshiping this tree and it gave me family unity. With all of the songs I embedded into that particular tree and all of the purse that I put into that particular tree. I threw it out there and it's in a landfill. But on the



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

other side of this with the Indigenous world that tree continues to grow. Maybe this young girl was mature enough to fall in love. And then she might say I am going to go to this tree, this tree of mind, and I am going to take some of the Evergreen off of that particular tree. So, she goes down to that particular tree, and then she talks to that tree and tells that tree I am going to get married.

It would be a privilege to take some of your Evergreen and I want to take it home and I want to roast it over a fire and I want to take the ashes, I'm going to take the ashes and going to put in blue cornmeal for my blue cornmeal that will be served between my new husband and myself [inaudible] this blue cornmeal with your ashes. We are going to protect if you so we can actually continue our life.

>> HARRY: Hank, there was a hand up. It might be at Divina San. I don't if she had a question for you or if she wanted to make a comment.

>> HANK: I am almost done. I will open it up to questions. In essence what I am saying is this particular tree will continue to be used infinity. Until its time comes when it decides to dry up and give itself to mother earth. But for the people that are using artificial trees for this Christmas I thank you. Because you are saving a tree. And the reason why I say that I wanted to say [inaudible] the reason I say that is because all of the [inaudible] to the New World and we worship Christmas just like everybody else. So, for the people that are actually using artificial trees I am thankful and if you do are using a real tree do yourself a favor and maybe find somebody, someone that has a chipper, and maybe chip this tree and give it back to mother nature. And in that way, you will respect mother nature. Thank you.

>> HARRY: Thank you, Hank. Divina, you have a hand up. I cannot see it, but I'm told that you do.

>> DAVINA: Can you hear me? I didn't know when you wanted me to speak so that is why I raised my hand. First of all, thank you, Hank, for that knowledge from our Navajo perspective. And I think this is a great learning opportunity which I hope to see many more for the rest of the MAC members. As I am listening throughout this whole discussion and each of you are presenting rarely have, I heard anything about Indigenous knowledge. I heard something about Indigenous ancestors and I'm hoping that that is pertaining to the Indigenous Tribes that have been there and see those areas since time Memorial. Everything that is being implemented in this work that we are doing and as Harry mentioned, yes, I am a board member with grass decades partners. I reside in Brandon Utah. My work is across-the-board from whether it is here in [inaudible] County all the way over to Grand Staircase but right now moving forward I am right now and will be leading with Tribal engagement and a native led focus and Grand Staircase.

So, this is kind of something we softly announced in our meeting back in November with BLM and Tribes. So, it would be something where we will look at some form of collaboration with the Bears ears intertribal coalition but the first thing, I want to put out there is I am hearing about this balance,



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

bringing balance of understanding and clarity and that we need to all work together. I really hope that is the case because working together means also including bringing Tribes to the table. It means understanding stories such as Hank shared. There's a firewood project. Talking about looking at Williams background and looking at those. Those have stories, the artwork back there, those are stories from Tribes. Which are stories that are on the land as well. Another was about grazing. My father was a former rancher and we talked about raising -- resting land. We have an ATV. My father is very stingy with his ATV, but he uses the ATV respectfully on the land. But these are conversations that can be had with Tribal leaders.

In terms of how we could better take care of the land respectively. And whatsoever not at all saying we are removing excess. But understanding there are some areas that need a different tactic. These are ancestral lands for Pueblo that are still here presently. We have museums you see our native history across the dinosaur and that puts us negative representation that we are of the past. We are still here. All of those artwork and petroglyphs and ancestral Pueblos those are connected to present day Pueblos here. So that is what this coalition is looking and bringing that message to the table, whether it is about cultural [inaudible] come about sacred places, about [inaudible] also about protection of animals and wildlife, plants. The water. Water is also a very important lifecycle and our mother Earth and father sky. I don't know if anyone knows this, maybe Hank as talked about how San Juan River is a representation of our Mill River. How they Colorado and Green nervous is representation of our female River. So, everything intertwines and that is what we want you to bring to this conversation to have everyone have a better understanding of how we can work collaboratively together, and I am hearing that so that is why I am hoping that we can move forward working with our state and local government and also our BLM and that's a national state and local level as well.

That is why we are moving forward with this native led coalition. And Harry, I guess you are very well notetaker because everything you have explained is pretty much what happened in the meeting, but I just wanted to give more clarity on this native led coalition that is going to be -- we are working as well. I have never stopped and I'm still going to -- we are still moving forward. And the reason why yes, we did have a good attendance our first meeting with BLM and department of Interior, but this is just the first and one of many more that will be happening. And [inaudible] a team of Indigenous outreach efforts that are going out also engaging with other Tribal leaders and to bring more to the conversation. The one thing that I know because I have been -- when I first started as a board member with Grand Staircase, I know I am only one of a few that have been able [inaudible] to walk around whether it is Escalante or Boulder oratory and I know there's a lot more history. And that history also needs to be discussed as well. With that being said I just want to leave it at that. Thank you.

>> HARRY: Thank you, Divina. I appreciate that. You and Hank what you said. And Sarah, do you want to take a minute or two before closing and tell us what your thoughts are about the meeting?

>> SARAH: I was thankful to be in attendance, but I want to make clear that our organization or the



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

organization I work with Grand Staircase Escalante partners our role is we have been over the past year hosting Tribal listening sessions and the first one was meant to be in person but because of Co. that switched to virtual platform. And the goal of those Tribal listening sessions was to build relationships with Tribes and Pueblos to understand the perspectives and connections to the landscape. What has come out of those discussions. And we have had varying degrees of participation from Tribes and Pueblos, but we've had actually quite a few Tribal representatives and Tribal leaders attend the sessions. One or more. So, we been able to start to build an understanding of what they may see in terms of Grand Staircase and clamped of stewardship but is such early stages because we also know that there is missing data in terms of ethnographies and [inaudible] resource inventories and the Tribes have not been included in those conversations from the beginnings of the monument when it was first created in 1996.

So, I think from our perspective we are here to share resources, help reduce barriers to participation. Understand Tribal perspectives. And also, there has been a lot of issues from DOI, and the Biden administration related to collaborative stewardship guidance, informal guidance on that. And at the same time, it is great to have all of these opportunities but there are a lot of barriers to participation, so I hope if Tribes are not able to participate in a meeting that that isn't a statement on whether or not they want to be involved moving forward in a collaborative stewardship effort. And I know that the BLM at that meeting talked about different ways of reducing those barriers and having more meetings and these are not necessarily formal consultation meetings. They are really about learning about culture and understanding perspectives and I know Hank has had a number of times we need to have a training for this group. And I think that those trainings are really key to us having that cultural responsiveness and sensitivity and being able to make this an inclusive process. So, with that I will be done. Thank you so much.

>> Thank you. I appreciate your comments. And helping us with those Tribal listening sessions you've had. Hank and Divina, thank you. Will be meeting more in the future, I'm sure. I know we need to move into the public comment portion. Bill, would be appropriate now to end this piece of our meeting and move into that comment period?

>> BILL: Yes, it would. That keeps us right on schedule. I would like to thank all of the presenters for their cultural training portion. I think it was great. With that I will turn it over to the Zoom coordinator or David to allow the public to speak.

>> HOST: Thanks, Bill. I will have Taylor show the screen with a few slides and first we will go over some ground rules before I get into the instructions for how to provide comment. First, we will go ahead and call on commenters who indicated during registration that they would like to provide a comment. Each participant will be limited four minutes and will be able to get through as many comments as possible during this comment session. Should we have some time left over after the preregistered commenters we will go ahead and move on to anyone else who has joined us today that would like to provide a comment.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

If we do have time left over after comments, we will begin to address any questions that are submitted via the Q&A future. Like I said, if you indicated during registration, they would like to provide a comment we will call on you. When you do hear your name called, please go ahead, and use that raise hand feature. It will be located on your Zoom toolbar at the bottom of your screen. That will indicate to me that you are present and ready to provide your comment. After we have completed our list of preregistered commenters like I said we will open the floor up to anyone else would like to provide comment. [inaudible] indicated to me they would like to provide a comment will be the same way you indicate to me that you would like to [inaudible] again, that is a raise hand feature that will allow me to unmute you and call on you to provide comment.

If you're joining us by phone this evening you can go ahead and press star nine and that will also raise your hand and I will be able to unmute you. We will have a [inaudible] displayed on the screen that will show you the time it is remaining for your comments. And lastly, your comments will be included in the [inaudible] when I do call on you, please go ahead and spell your first and last name for the project record. After that we will go ahead and start your four-minute timer. First up today we have Madeline McGill. Madeline, if you are with us this evening you can go ahead and raise your hand. And I am not seeing Madeleine on our list so I will go ahead and move on to our next participant Patrick McKay. Patrick, if you are here with us today go ahead and raise your hand. I am not seeing Patrick either so I will go ahead and move on to our next commenter and pardon if I mispronounce this last name. Morgan Sjogren. If you're with us today go ahead and raise your hand and I will call on you for comment. I am not seeing Morgan either. Our next commenter is Laura Welp. Laura, if you are with us today and would like to provide comment please go ahead and raise your hand. And I see that you have raised her hand so I will go ahead and allow you to unmute yourself. Please respond to any messages. It looks like you have to unmute it yourself. Can you hear us?

>> LAURA WELP: Yes, I can.

>> HOST: Awesome. Go ahead and spell your name for the record and we will start the four minutes for your comment.

>> LAURA WELP: My name is Laura Welp and first of all I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on this. And I would like to say I appreciate the MAC members for being part of this group. It will always be this easy. And I would also like to commend the BLM [inaudible] Pueblo inclusion. I was very moved by Hank's story about the deeper meaning of Christmas trees and the deeper respect. And that I think it's an example of why we need Indigenous involvement in management so I [inaudible] listen and take in those lessons.

Next, I have an observation on the functioning of the group. I have attended MAC meetings since the beginning. And I have always understood that at its best the MAC individual members advocate for



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

their interest but then come together as a whole to make balanced recommendations. That [inaudible] all of the interest and it is particularly important now the MAC is in a consequential period because it will be advising on the monument management plan and for the science monument and it might be involved in the science plan as well but there are no scientists in the room today. We ideally would have heard from an ecologist, a paleontologist, and an archaeologist. Those are three of the disciplines that are missing but they are really the most represented. In the proclamation. So going forward this could possibly affect the credibility of the MAC recommendations. To not have a full slate of interest represented. And just was wondering when those members are going to be seated. And I also thought I would review a little bit about the national conservation system, the monuments, the unit in the national conservation system. It does not have a multiple use mandate. Management is guided by the proclamation that established it and management must safeguard the objects and values [inaudible] described in that proclamation. So therefore, the management plan cannot include provisions or uses that go against protection of those things. Things that aren't in the proclamation are discretionary uses and they can only occur if they are managed so they don't conflict with protection of the objects in the proclamation. For example, we heard about the damage from [inaudible] that has occurred over the last two years. Under the 2017 RFP OHV damage has gotten out of control. [inaudible] the little desert [inaudible] and [inaudible] process is an opportunity to fix that. By reinstating and enforcing a transportation plan that will uphold the [inaudible] and some of those things are solitude unparalleled views, outstanding [inaudible] resources world-class recreational opportunities including rock climbing, hiking, back camping, river running, mountain biking and horseback riding that support a travel and tourism sector that is a source of economic opportunity for the region. So outside of those things the MNP cannot allow discretionary uses that are going to engage -- endanger any of those things. So that is the entirety of my comment. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

>> HOST: Thanks, Laura. I will go ahead and put you back on mute and lower your hand. Up next, we have Alex Steckel. Alex, if you are with us today would like to provide a comment -- I see raised her hand. I will go ahead and allow you to unmute. You will see either a pop-up message or the microphone appearing in the lower left-hand corner. It looks like you have to unmute yourself.

>> ALEX STECKEL: Thanks. Alex Steckel. Thanks for the opportunity to comment today. I appreciate that. A response to Shea Owens' comment. I am really puzzled by [inaudible] claim that the Federal government is incapable of managing The Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. As initially proclaimed and that the consequence [inaudible] should be reduced. So that and that implies that the state of Utah should dictate policy on the remaining lands in question. That is a terrible idea. For instance, look at Utah's public land management skills regarding the great Salt Lake. That should give everyone pause about their sense of stewardship.

Reducing the size of The Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument flies in the face of increased visitation numbers. As the population grows, we need more space to get away from the trappings of society. Not less. So, the issue at hand is how to protect the monument from overuse. Whether that



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

is from people or from grazing. As [inaudible] the King County Commissioner commented we need to properly fund enforcement. Without it the monuments integrity is threatened. Presently there is virtually no enforcement on the ground. And lastly in response to Bill Whitmarsh's comment search and rescue operations on public land I disagree on the responsibility that individuals should [inaudible] with spending time within the monument. Wilderness is not Disneyland, and it should not be treated as such. If signage needs to be installed [inaudible] then so be it. But it is preposterous to contend that lifelike stones be established within monument boundaries to facilitate evacuation. Incompetence [inaudible] search and rescue team need to be staffed in the adjacent communities for the monument for evacuation of inter parties and those rescued individuals are responsible for the [inaudible] sets a bad precedent to disturb the integrity of The Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument by creating evacuation zones and/or access roads. Thank you.

>> HOST: Thank you for your comment, Alex. I will go ahead and place you back on mute. And floor -- and lower your hand. Our next pre-registered commenter is Krista Sather. And Christa, if you're here with us I would like to provide it, please go ahead, and raise your hand. I will go ahead and allow you to unmute on your end. Please confirm that you have audio and spell your first and last name for the record before giving your comment.

>> CHRISTA SADLER: Thank you. Can you hear me, okay?

>> HOST: We can, yes.

>> KRISTA SADLER: My name is Christa Sadler. First of all, thank you for the chance to speak today and I want to thank all of you for your work and for your efforts. The breadth of experience of everyone on this committee is really impressive and they are so much potential to serve the land and its communities. Here. So, I am really grateful to all of you for your participation. I have a few things I wanted to say. First, regarding the idea of objects to be protected by monument status under the antiquities act. I think it is really critical to acknowledge that an object may be larger or more [inaudible] than a fossil or a butte or an archaeological site. Some people seem to be getting hung up on that word. But the monuments boundaries were really carefully drawn in consideration of everything within those boundaries. In other words, the entire landscape is an object.

Watersheds or objects. Solitary is an object. Traditional knowledge is an object. Ecological sites are objects. Biodiversity is an object. We just had a huge global conference on biodiversity which is severely threatened all over the world by climate change and population encouragement and development. The monument has incredibly high biodiversity of ecological sites, plants, insects, and other and other fauna. This biodiversity is impacted directly by the amount of connected land it can exist in. And that connected landscape needs to remain whole. When the pioneers crossed the region, they did not hopscotch over disparate parcels of land. The Tribes of the region didn't and don't just randomly ignore parts of their homeland. The biological, the geological, and the cultural landscapes of the monument form a single whole, not something that can participate -- partitioned into pieces for



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

protection for there's no rust on the planet like Grand Staircase and I submit that the state of Utah should be proud that this externally replace lies within their borders.

Second, I'm a little confused by the comments from several MAC members that somehow the new proclamation seems intent upon closing off land. To recreation, ATVs, grazing, et cetera. I read the proclamation. I do not see that. I don't believe anyone on the MAC is suggesting that the money would be closed off or given over entirely to science. And I would really like to see the fear mongering stop so something can get done.

Third, I really want to emphasize the imports of making decisions about management using geological climate biological and ecological principles in additional two anecdotes or personal opinion. One example is Commissioner Ted's statement about chaining and improving the land. Chaining can contribute to severe erosion and makes it harder for vegetation to take hold especially and increasingly violent and predictable monsoon storms.

The native vegetation destroyed by chaining also supports biodiversity in a way that introduce species or amount, or specific planting don't. It simply not true to say that chaining supports the land, that money could be done without damage, or that soil [inaudible] somehow are not important to the substrate and I'm concerned that people tasked with helping manage the monument suggest this. Finally, I wholeheartedly support including as much Indigenous perspective and involvement at the Tribes want. We talked about this as our monument but is land that was forcibly taken from people who have lived on it sometime in memorial. Indigenous people throughout history have shown themselves more than capable of living within the bounds of the land and of understanding how the natural world works better than most of us ever could. To move into the future and a healthy weight this knowledge will be critical. Thank you very much.

>> HOST: Thanks, Krista. I will place you back on mute and lower your head. Next up we did have Divina. However, she indicated earlier that she had a meeting conflict to go to and we did here earlier from her. So, I will go ahead and move on to our last preregistered commenter. And that would be Kya Marienfeld. Kya, if you're here with us and you like to provide a comment please go ahead and raise your hand. I will go ahead and allow you to unmute on your hand. Please confirm you have audio and spell your first and last name for the record before giving your comment.

>> KYA MARIENFELD: Can you hear me?

>> HOST: We can, yes.

>> KYA MARIENFELD: My name is Kya Marienfeld. Thank you so much for allowing the opportunity for public comment today. I was not initially going to comment this morning but just decided to take a minute or two to provide some perspectives from over here. Just a reminder I have heard a lot at the other commenters Alex set almost exactly what I was going to say on some issues so I will leave those out there and the same with Krista as well just now. Just reminding everybody that



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

the purpose of the charge of the Monument Advisory Committee is to make recommendations. About monument management with the focus on the reason that the money was designated which is the science and the protection of monument objects.

It has been a little alarming I think maybe it was just today I have been to all of the other MAC meetings are to this current makeup of the Advisory Committee and of this particular makeup as well. I think maybe it was just the individual presentation where it was sort of everyone had the Stage two talk about the things that they wanted for a while this morning. But it was slightly concerning is a member of the public who does understand the purpose of the monument and cares about it very deeply recreating their commenting my job there, having lots of connections certainly to the local community as well.

It was strange to hear some of the individual presentations today for people who were specifically appointed as an Advisory Committee for management of the monument wildly misunderstand or disagree with the purpose of the legal framework of the monument itself. That is not something that had really heard maybe given that much of a state before so was a little alarming logging on this morning to hear that the monument was too big, or the Monmouth could have been managed better by the state or that had somehow taken away a bunch of rights and uses. I think Krista said Well maybe I wouldn't go far to say fear mongering but just misunderstanding the framework that everybody is working with and there are plenty of people understand the need for the monument and to understand the purpose for its management. I would just say if you don't like or want the monument to exist, I would question why you are on the Monument Advisory Committee in the first place. I think there are plenty of people who have applied over and over and over again who understand those purposes and want to help see it succeed instead of sort of trying to undermine the reason it was created in the first place.

And I understand that people disagree, but I do think there's a way forward where you are not -- you can understand that the monument is there, that the monument is not going away and work within that frame it. So, I would just encourage and want to consider that he was on the committee and thank you for serving and -- in the first place. And then finally echoing I think a little bit of what Alex said. This isn't a theme park. It is public lands. I am a first responder. I have a background in that. As well as conservation. And I would just say that here in millet where I live, we deal with the same issues times 20. Within lot of backcountry search and rescue issues with high angle rescues, with helicopters need to come with all of these things. We do not have a decimated landing helicopter spot. Out on public lands here aside from backcountry airstrips would certainly exist out there as well in certain places. But even in those really high use high risk areas we have the ability for search and rescue to access individuals if they need emergency services or emergency care.

Without substantially changing the nature of the backcountry, the nature of wilderness areas, or conservation errors. We have the same things around here. So just echoing there is actually ways for people to get the services and care that they need without removing all of that risk upfront which I



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

don't think is the job of plant managers and if anything would take away a lot of the reason that people access to places in the first place. Thank you all very much. I really appreciate your service. Have a good one.

>> HOST: Thank you, Kya. I will place you back on mute and lower your hand. At this point that is the last of our preregistered participants this evening. If anyone else who is here with us would like to provide a comment, please go ahead and access that raise hand feature. Again, that's at the bottom of your Zoom screen on your toolbar. We will go ahead and go in the order of raised hands received. I am not seeing any currently so we will give it about a minute or so to see if anybody else would like to provide a comment before we go ahead and move on. It looks like Keith Watts has raised his hand. Keith, I will go ahead and allow you to unmute yourself on your end. Please go ahead and confirm audio and spell your first and last name for the record before giving your comment. It looks like we are having a little trouble in muting. There may be a pop-up message on your screen, Keith. Or in the lower left-hand corner should be a microphone that you can click to unmute yourself. Looks like we are having a little bit of trouble with Keith. Keith, if you're having any technical issues, you can go ahead and add those into the webinar check box. That is on your Zoom toolbar screen. But it does not look like we are able to unmute today. Is there anybody else who is here with us who would like to provide a comment what we try to figure out Keith's technical issues? I am not seeing any other hands raised and I am not seeing any messages. So potentially Keith, if you do have any comments you would like to add please go ahead and add them into the chat if you're having technical issues or anything please go ahead and add that to the chat. Other than that, I think David, or Bill I think would be ready to move on to the next session.

>> BILL: No additional questions or comments? Basically, we are going to amend as Harry said the agenda based on some scheduling difficulties. We were going to have additional discussion on the cultural training, and we still can. But we are going to open it up to basically the committee to discuss among themselves everything they have her today. And I guess I am going to begin that by saying so the public understands we have had two meeting so far. Not counting today. And in both of those meetings, especially the first one, the consensus of the committee was we were being talked at quite a bit. And well, that is good for us to have information it is an Advisory Committee and it's a committee that requires deliberation and discussion and differences of opinion.

For those in the public, and it seems like a lot of you are -- I'm picking my words carefully, I was going to say experts, but have some connection to monument advisory committees the people that are selected aren't supposed all think alike. You are supposed to have experience. In working through issues. And stealing with people that have a different perspective than you do. And that is how the group of 12 got selected. And some of us were selected at a time when there was a different monument management plan. So, there is a lot of things that make this particular MAC unique. And in that, and I am again trying to choose my words carefully, there are three scientists on this committee. It might not be the three scientists or five scientists or 12 scientists that anyone if you would choose but Dr. Patterson, Dr. Grant, and Dr. Weppner are all credentialed scientists. And we bring a different perspective to this particular monument. That doesn't mean that we are incapable of



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

understanding the science. No more than Shea or Scott as attorneys don't understand the regulatory issues involved in this and legal issues.

So, we have been brought together as a group under unique circumstances. I think it was David tabs this morning that said we have a history in this morning -- of this monument of pink panic back and forth well, that's exactly when you're going to get when that happens. We are here today to have a discussion which we took this morning to do to get individual interpretations, viewpoints, hot buttons, out on the table. That is something that the MAC wanted. If the public does not like that, and I will speak for myself, it is -- as just one individual, then that is too bad because it was necessary for us as of 12 people to start to unify more as a group.

And I think all 12 of us or 11 of us today have seen examples, and has been brought up, we have more in, and probably could find some consistent solutions if we were given enough time. Harry Barber had said it himself many times, there is an artificial timeframe that has been forced on [indiscernible] and on the BLM management to do things very quickly. We don't have all of the things that we would like to see. That would allow us to contribute to that management plan. I can tell you as a scientist, and outdoor recreation is, but as a scientist I am incredibly disappointed in the total absence of a science plan. This is 26 years. Some of you people come and visit. I live here. When I retired as a scientist I began teaching at the local high school. Science and math. I volunteered for an education committee on the monument when it was first formed. Which was then quickly disbanded. I have watched for over 20 years a science laboratory that is adjacent to the visitor center here sit unoccupied as a broom closet. Because there is no plan to help educate the public but especially children.

And again, I am not hammering on Harry Barber but Harry, it is great, you are working on a science plan. There is 26 sure that that science plan should have been developed. Every laboratory and every academic educational institute I have been involved in and in the corporate world I could give you my complete budget and my complete science plan any time it was asked for.

So, I am not asking for break. I think the committee has to form itself a little better. I think the BLM has to step up a little more. The problem is you are right in the middle of a very active management of this monument. For all of the reasons that have been discussed. But especially because you have 26 years of inviting people to come here. So, I am over my rants. I am not going to apologize for it.

>> HARRY: You don't need to apologize. It's okay if you beat me up a little bit. It's been happening a lot lately. 26 years and we will finally get something together soon. I think for the public comment period we need to go to the end of that public comment period just in case anybody does jump on. So, somebody needs to take a break or something I will let you suggest it but if they want to do that, they can but I think we should wait until 2:30 just so we can say we fulfilled our commitment to go that are for the public comment period or go for that time for the public comment period.

>> HOST: Sorry about that, folks. We will go ahead and open the floor up to anyone who would like



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

to provide comment today. I do see Keith they need to have your hand raised still so I'm going to go ahead and call on you first. I am going to go ahead and allow you to unmute. And again, there may be some pop-up messages on your screen asking you to unmute. Or the microphone should appear in the lower left-hand corner as well and you can click on that to unmute yourself. We will try again with keep -- with Keith. Again, anyone else if you would like to provide comment you can go ahead and excess that racing and future on the bottom of your Zoom screen and that indicate to us that you would like to provide a comment. It doesn't seem to be allowing me to unmute Keith but if anybody else has a comment they would like to -- please go ahead and raise your hand. I do see Scott you have your hand raised. Would you like to provide it?

>> SCOTT: >>: I would. Thank you very much. I want to follow up a little bit with Bill and it seems like Bill, and I are sort of in agreement which is probably a rare occurrence. I think that one of the reasons the committee has not been as effective in moving forward with the task we have been assigned is because basically our program is not -- heaven focus clearly on trying to meet the objectives within our program has. We are supposed to be giving advice strictly science advice to the BLM about how they can accomplish the goals of the proclamation.

And their new management plan. I'm sure all of us is more or less willing to do that, some more equipped to do the job of that. But it seems to me to really make that work we need to know from the BLM where particular areas they would like to have us help them with. What areas have deficiencies of information that we can fill and guide us in a way that we can come up with something that is helpful. Turiya often says what they want is new information and that is a good thing. But we really need more specific guidance than that. What is it that this committee can do? What types of areas of investigation? What types of science? What particular areas of the monument? What particular ecological systems or issues are things that that the BLM feels that it's weekend and they could benefit from our advice? And if we had that guidance, I think then we could start putting together subcommittees or teams or whatever where we could start collecting that information, that particular information would be helpful. As long as we are struggling around in the area to just come up with new information we are just at sea, we just don't know where to go or what direction to head in. So, I guess I would ask this is a request to Harry and a day and Turiya we need your help. We need you to guide us to the areas where we can provide scientific information or analysis, or ideas would help me to management and if you can give us that help, I am sure the next time we have a meeting we will be able to perhaps be a bit more productive. Thanks.

>> HOST: Thanks, Scott. I will go ahead and place you back on mute and lower your hand. Sarah, I see that you have your hand raised. Would you like to provide a comment?

>> SARAH: >>: I also agree with Bill. I think a science plan is critical and also required by MCS and I guess one of my questions is where are the NLCS staff in all of this process? Because I know that that is really integral to their long-term strategic plan that is a formal document that folks can review. But really would love to hear from the BLM if the NLCS involved in the settle. And then to



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Scott's -- a couple of comments from the public. I think with the science disciplines we really need paleontology and archaeology and the specialist that are outlined in the charter to be able to provide the kind of recommendations that we need to provide. And one way that we may can do this as they are working to fill the position is to have subcommittees as came up at the last MAC meeting, I was hoping we would have that on this agenda as well. But to be able to really do work in between meetings but again I do think it is hard to do that with a status update thing with the science plan and also with the RNP development and alternatives where they already [inaudible] getting the information from BLM that we need to see where we need to focus. We can all look at the scoping comments and see the information shared there as well. But I do think we need more formal guidance and data from the BLM.

And the lesson I want to say is organization [inaudible] did compile a lot of research that had been done largely by the BLM and other scientists and academic institutions into a draft science and monitoring plan that was really aimed at really just making sure that we capture to that because there has been a lot invested in this monument over the years and a lot of science that has been done even though we don't have a formal science plan.

And that information exists in the BLM has it and I know [inaudible] that you talked about working on the science plan I think would be really interesting for this committee to really understand what you have so far in the realm of data and what you're working on so that we can help contribute potentially to that science plan with other individuals would be brought to the table through the subcommittee structure. So other scientists. That is, it. Thank you.

>> HOST: Thanks, Sarah. I will go ahead and lower your hand. That is everyone currently who has their hand raised. We will sit tight for the next six or so minutes just until 2:30. If you do find that you would like to provide a comment just go ahead and access that raise hand feature and we will allow you four minutes to provide your comment. It looks like Mark [inaudible] has their hand raise. Mark, I will go ahead and allow you to unmute yourself. Please confirm you have audio and spell your first and last name for the record before providing your comment.

>> MARC COLES-RITCHIE: Hi, this is Mark Coles Ritchie, he can hear me, okay? It is spelled Mark Coles-Ritchie I work for Grand Canyon test. My train is in vegetation and ecology. I just wanted to mention that following up on the discussion a little bit of vegetation treatments earlier in the day I heard that, and I don't know if anything else was talked about related to that after because I had to step away. But I just want to point out that vegetation treatments should be thought of in a very carefully. They are not something that you should do likely -- likely and there can be a lot of problems with vegetation with altering the native vegetation of this region and too often they have been done in a very I don't know domineering kind of way that has really altered the landscape dramatically and I think vegetation -- there is a place and time for vegetation treatments on a small and careful scale.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

But that often has not been the case in the western United States. And the key is what is the goal of the vegetation treatment? It really should be to restore and enhance native plant communities so there need to be criteria that define what is a successful vegetation treatment. And it cannot be just looking out and saying it looks good. It needs to be quantitative -- a quantitative measure of cover a species, of the types of species. It should be all native species that are there to indicate a successful effort. And I am happy to help write some criteria that help would help define what a successful vegetation treatment would be. And what the goals and measures should be. And we shouldn't think of [inaudible] and juniper is a prime. They are the native plant community in our southern Utah ecosystem. And they are used to a national disturbance regime that includes fire and insects and other things that alter and cutting which is all fine. Native people should be able to cut those trees for firewood. But we should not just haphazardly or just go across the landscape doing mechanical treatments that really altered the landscape and can lead to a shift to non-native species. They can increase cheat grass; they can increase erosion. And a whole host of things that can be a negative impact on the landscape.

So just my caution about vegetation treatment. And I'm happy to provide further guidance and I know other people are as well on how to decide if and where vegetation treatments should be done and what is the measure of a success of a vegetation treatment. Thanks.

>> HOST: Thanks, Mark. I will go ahead and place you back on mute. And lower your hand. It is now 2:30 so we have reached the end of the public comment session. So, I will go ahead and turn it back over.

>> BILL: We have two directions we could go based on being a little more flexible in the agenda. We were going to take like I said before a large part of the afternoon for the MAC to discuss what we heard from each other this morning. But it might be wise for us to take maybe half an hour and let the MAC respond to the comments that we just heard from the public. And that way we can keep that as a connected as much as possible. So, if we went from 2:30 to 3:00 MAC basically responding to anything they have heard from the public comments. We had a little bit of that already, but we could continue. And then at 3:00 we could have a more general discussion about what we have heard during the entire day. Especially between our individual presentations.

>> SARAH: There was a couple comments about a five-minute break before we start.

>> BILL: Let's take a five-minute break and be back 25 to 3:00. Okay we are starting to file back here so we will give it a couple more minutes. Okay, hopefully those that have not come back will be back quickly, but we will open it up now for discussion with regard to any of the comments that we heard during the public comment period. And again, just raise your hand and we will call on you. Sarah.

>> SARAH: I want to give someone else a chance to talk. If there's anybody else on the committee that would like to make a comment right now, I can go after. Anyone? Okay, I will go now. What I



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

wanted to comment on obviously we all heard the public comments. I think there was affirmation of desire to see this committee be able to have the right, expertise at the table, to make recommendations for the management plan. I would say also echoing the need for us to meet the purposeful need of the proclamation or for us to work with the BLM to ensure that that happens. And then understanding the science and being able to make recommendations whether vegetation treatment or how to protect a certain cultural site that the data is really important to that.

And I think for us to make informed recommendations of any kind we need to be fully informed ourselves. And I don't think -- I for one will say that I don't think I am as a committee member here, but I think that we can get there. If we bring the right people to the table and one thing that we can do is be one of the subcommittees. So, I wanted to put that out there. I know we talked about it before and how we might move forward with developing those subcommittees. That would be issue specific. As the BLM and the BLM is planning on half having a draft ESA done by March of 2023 which is really soon so I don't know what the expectations are. And we definitely want to BS helpful as possible, but I would like to hear from the BLM how we can support that process. As well. Those are some of my comments.

>> BILL: Just a quick comment about the subcommittees. Because I think everybody has thought about that and perhaps struggled a little bit. There is an appetite but how do we actually do it? And in make conversations with David Hercher. David is trying to find out through the appropriate channels whether those have to be public meetings themselves. So, there is some logistical things that we need to make sure we understand. As well as if you look at the definition of those subcommittees in [inaudible] there are questions about is the representation from the MAC on it? How do we solicit other members to its? So again, it is a logistical question that have to be answered.

>> DAVID: A lot of what was said today is stuff that Harry and I have been discussing. Amongst ourselves. One of which is the science plan subcommittee. What I learned is that that is basically just like another MAC meeting. Meaning that we have to have MAC representation at least one person from the MAC, which isn't really a big deal. The DFO has to be there. And we have to follow the Federal register process, which makes it kind of difficult to plan out meetings. Because in my mind I think every four to five weeks they would be good to get together. And to discuss where we are at with the science plan. And -- my plan is to talk to Carrie again -- sorry, I'm not even on camera, but my plan is to talk to Carrie again and see if in lieu of the subcommittee doing maybe, we could just do an informal working group. That's meets once a month, once every five weeks. And my intent too is to try and find a way to tie our co-stewardship meetings into our science plan meetings so that we have that Indigenous knowledge as part of the science plan. I hope that makes sense. Sarah has her hand up.

>> SARAH: I was going to ask because as I understand it we can have informal discussions, informal meetings to gather information and it seems like Mark Coles Ritchie has a background that would be really helpful so being able to half those discussions -- obviously, we have discussions every day with



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

people about the things that we are working on that are not necessarily MAC discussions. But I am just curious what those informal meetings would look like.

>> I think the first meeting would be to pull, just like I did for the trouble co-stewardship meeting, is to pull all delete relevant [inaudible] out of the minutes and build an agenda. We talk about what we want a science plan. How do we want to frame a science plan? How do we want to incorporate the spirituality of Indigenous knowledge with the science? How do we marry those two together in a document? And I can visualize it in my head. But we need to have our SGEs on board. We need to have -- if we have a need to go outside of this group for some sort of specialized knowledge, we do that. And like I said, we informally we have a working group. And then once that working group comes up with a draft, they present that to the MAC for the MAC to review and once they MAC has blessed that science or that draft then they present it to the BLM.

But this is a programmatic -- this is a programmatic document that we don't want to get into the tactical levels -- we don't want to get too far down into the weeds. But that is something we talked about in her first meeting.

>> BILL: We talked about this after our October meeting because somebody wants to focus on the science plan. We all agree to that. But the obstacle is we need to be grounded in some basic information and we can't get it. So [inaudible] template to David --

>>: I have it. It just not finished yet --

[Multiple people talking]

>> The idea was to have that template so the entire MAC would have a basic understanding of what exists today. And I think the whole MAC has to be grounded in that. There may be a subcommittee that deals with a specific science plan or all science plans, but the MAC has to in general understand what is going on. So that would have been a start.

>> That would be our baseline to really start from. So, what we called that was the science inventory and what that outline is -- it just gives the MAC a better understanding of providing transparency about what is the active research that is happening right here, right now. What has happened over the last five years. Who are the identifying principal investigators? Who is the sponsoring entity? What is the funding resource? Things like that. So, I have worked with Alfred Titus, and we have about a 90 percent a draft ready to go. I just need to incorporate the archaeology piece into that. And then I need to have Harry tell me it is okay to share. But it is coming your way. I would have liked to have it before this meeting. But it just did not happen. That is all I have unless there's any questions. I see Scott has his hand up.

>> BILL: Scott, go ahead.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> SCOTT: It kind of looks to me like maybe we are making this too difficult. I think as I said early on some time is my goal is to try to take work off the BLM desk and give it to ourselves. To accomplish that. So always waiting for something more from the BLM, description of their inventory [inaudible] I have to tell you guys that all of that stuff already exists. If you spent a day on the computer, you could put together a bibliography of science and science investigators at the monument that goes back at least 20 years. You would find a ton of information. It seems to me that we don't need that [inaudible] information. What I need from the information, I think we need from the information, is a specific thing they could say you know we would like to have criteria for vegetation management projects. And we think maybe your Mr. Coles Ritchie could help us with that. And then that is that. That is all we need from the BLM. We will take it and we will run with it. From that point. And we will come up with a set of criteria and we will provide it to the BLM. And I think this can all be done in -- informally working group style, without a lot of formality. The important part is the work. At the end of the day the MAC will save we approve, or we disapprove. But in the meantime, we connection make progress on the ground by trying to answer specific questions and help in specific ways.

But we do need that initial step, that first step. That here is an area where we could use some help. We think you guys can help us. Go to the work and help us. And I think that would be a really productive way to go instead of like kind of always like well, one more step of documentation or one more step of process [inaudible] because as many of us has, today we are sent liquid to run out of time. It's not going to get done if it gets slow down. So, I think the important part is to make things go faster and by filling in gaps in science information and science analytics, anything through science metrics that could help the BLM we can go out and we can do that.

Like Bill said, we have scientists on this call. I think I have access to lots of other scientists who would love to help with specific requests like this. To go to a point that is relevant to the planning process. I guess I would just say let's try to find something we can do that does not put more work on David's desk. Let's give him an assignment. Let's figure out how to implement it and let's go forward.

>> BILL: We will skip to Joel to let him have an opportunity to speak. Joel.

>> JOEL: I want to acknowledge I'm agreeing with a lot of what Scott said. And I guess I have a possibly pointed question for here. Harry, are you still there along with David?

>>: I am here.

>> JOEL: We have been talking about the possibility of forming working groups and it occurs to me that we are getting ahead of ourselves it would still make sense to form some working group so that we can incorporate and find other expertise and educate ourselves so it seems to me from comments and from all kinds of documents that you talked about maybe working group with on the science plan but then also it seems kind of obvious to me that we need maybe a working group on grazing



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

management for vegetation management. And then the other main issue seems to be trouble management. So, I am just wondering is there anything else Harry that you would –

[Multiple people talking]

If we could have four working groups would probably be these things. So, I made a few suggestions. Is there anything else that pops in your mind?

>>: I think there'll be some other things that come up. Me talk to the science plan first. I am not sure how to explain this. It was pointed out by Bill that I should have something together already. We have been here for 26 years; how come we don't have it? I cannot speak to what was written or not written prior to my being the district manager. When I was a wildlife biologist, we had a science coordinator. The science coordinator then there were several stabs at writing a science plan. Mostly what was being written was a compilation of what science was taking place. We know that. Sarah has talked about science has taken place and that stuff is brought together and we know what is taking place. We know who has been here. We know what kind of research has been applied on the monument.

But what we haven't had even though several science coordinators have made stabs at it is an actual plan. What do we do? What are we trying to learn? What are we trying to study? Where are the issues? Scott, you are saying tell us what we need. I don't know what we need yet we are in the planning stages and then trying to write a science plan. I don't know what it is. We need yet until I can actually sit down with the specialists to get them to be able to focus on a science plan. But I'll have one archaeologist, one paleontologist and you guys know the story. You have heard me whistling that tune now for several years. When I can finally get that same group to focus on science and for them to say what the needs are I think I can focus more on getting the science plan done. Now, we have an individual Turiya is aware of the individual. She has helped us put together some thoughts on what a science plan might be. I barely received that information around Thanksgiving, the information that she put together for us, and we are trying to look at that information to see if that would at least be a seed for a science plan. Something that could grow into a science plan. But again, until I can get our people who are now focused on planning to be able to have some time to focus on these things that you are asking about, Scott, these things that you're asking about, Sarah, I really cannot pull them off of that yet. But I can see a committee getting back to your question being able to put a subcommittee together to help pull some of that stuff together.

And I can see other working groups getting together to help pull other things like you suggested together. This is really from my perspective only our third meeting as a MAC. We focused probably 95 percent of our attention on trying to get Resource Management Plan done. And even just stepping into working with the Tribes as -- has taken it a little bit of our capacity way because we want to make sure we are working with the tribe so that's a few more people working and string to see if we can get Tribes more engaged. I simply do not have enough people to keep throwing at all of these different



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

opportunities that you guys are presenting to us. I just don't have enough staff to do that. Yet.

So, it probably seems slow from your perspective. I think maybe from the outside looking in sometimes it is easy to see you guys would just give us, just give us information. Well, I don't have a lot of people to set aside to work on a lot of those things. Yet. I hope as we get further into the planning process, and we produce a draft, and I can take people off of that so they can focus their attention on some of these other things that we can get there. So, I feel what you're saying. I feel the pain. I am just at a capacity right now I just don't have a lot of people to throw around and I've got to keep them focused on this planning effort. David is still here with me.

>> DAVID: In the spirit of the proclamation [inaudible] and I have had this conversation multiple times, but my viewpoint is we have a lot of talent on the MAC, and we have a lot of talent beyond the MAC. That folks can tap into. So, this informal working group I can see it starting off with just a few MAC members. Like I said, we decide what a framework -- what we want a framework to look like for a science plan and then we go out and we start soliciting research or whatever it is that we need to help develop that science plan. I agree with all of the categories that were mentioned. I think it was -- who was it? Who was it? I do remember who said it but another category we are going to need is we will have to have Tribal representation as part of that science plan. But if we can get an expert in grazing and an expert in vegetation management and an expert in fuels management and what have you, I think we are going to be off on a good foot.

And I hope -- I don't want to wait around for the next document, but I hope to have that science inventory in your hands before Christmas so at least you have some sort of common operational picture of what is currently happening right now. I want you folks to have plenty of time to look that document over and get a good sense of where we're at right now. And then we can build upon that. And I have heard a lot today that I am going to pull out of the minutes and use to help develop the next agenda. As well as I think there is probably some useful nuggets in there that we can use for our first working group meeting.

>> SHEA: Science plan I have seen don't have this problem statement that frames the science plan and then goes into this what methods are we going to use, how are we going to evaluate our results. And then to tear off of what Scott was saying it sounds like maybe the BLM does not have that [inaudible] or problems statement credit get. Would it be appropriate for this committee to offer some get together and offer recommendations as how that aim or problem statement out to be stated or just some suggestions. Should we get together and say here is what we think the aim of the science plan ought to be or here is what the -- is that more of the direction you're hoping to go, Scott? Or am I misreading everything?

>>: I think that is a very good suggestion, chez. Because that is how science plans are put together and having a clear statement of the problem to be addressed or to be investigated would really be a good first step. We will find more direction after that is in play. So, I think we can do that, and I bet



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

we can find volunteers on this call who would like to contribute to the process of developing that future.

>> HANK: One of the things that I wanted to throw in there is that when we start talking about Tribal engagement it's been a task for to actually get some of the Tribes involved and mainly because I think the Tribes might perceive [inaudible] MAC as Tribal representative I can only do so much to actually entertain the MAC a group and entertain other objectives that we need to incorporate into the RMPs and the ASM because eventually we might come to a situation where we start talking about government to government consultation especially with other Tribes they might indicate that I really don't want to speak for the Tribes. So, respecting that notion that is why we kind of had a meeting with the Tribal groups last month to try to engage the Tribes into the planning process so even the [inaudible] levels I am really not sure how [inaudible] they want to go into this monument plan. And the other issue too is that with the new incoming administration I really don't know who is going to be appointed to the department of natural resources division of natural resources. So hopefully we can get an idea as to what appointments are made next month after the inauguration. And get a feel for the appointments that the new president and vice president that are coming in and getting an idea to provide some type of engagement with the new Hope EVP for the coming four years and maybe they can actually provide an interest from the division of natural resources to actually sit on this committee has maybe a point of contact.

As for now I think we have Eric Stanfield and if we can continue with him as a point of contact, I think that would help because we already [inaudible] and we don't want to switch horses in the middle of the race right now. So as for the other Tribes I do believe we need to continue to maybe reach out and try to get their involvement because I am really concerned about this because if none of the Tribes get involved with this and I don't want to put myself in the position where the other Tribes it may seem like representing the Navajo Nation. We don't want to do that. So, more outreach from everyone I think or even from BLM may be draft up a letter or something to several of the other Tribes again and maybe make another run at it. Maybe we can [inaudible] some of the Tribes as they come in and have their involvement. So that is kind of my take on from the Tribal perspective because government to government consultation can actually become an issue and can hinder our ability to move for later. Thank you.

>> BILL: Thank you, Hank. I am just going to throw one comment out about the science plan. We've had a good discussion and I think there is a lot of opportunities and directions we can go. But the one thing we have to make sure is that we are not allowing a bias to enter into the science plan. It should be science for the sake of science and all of the nice things that are said in the proclamation. So, as we put efforts together and find people to contribute who maybe are not part of the Advisory Committee, we just make sure that we are not adding bias to any of the plan. There is plenty of differences of opinions. We have heard that all day long. And we should just make sure that bias is not there. I see some more hands up. Jacqueline, you have not had a chance yet.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> I have a question for the MAC committee members who fill out the public comments had directed them. What is it that you think that you are saying or what kind of message are you giving, or you think that is perceived by the public that they feel as though you all are against the monument? And if we can identify what's that message then perhaps, we can have a better conversation with the public about the fact that the monument Advisory Committee members are not against the monument.

>> BILL: That's a great question. I'm not sure how anybody's going to answer that. I can tell you how I reacted to it. And maybe that helps. Maybe it doesn't. But a lot of people both on this committee or people that made comments today don't live right here on the monument. I made it clear today, I live in Escalante. Live directly involved with the monument is different than the visiting it. Whether you are a scientist or recreationalist or a tourist. We see things a lot differently. And that should be appreciated. And at least understood. That is why I keep making the comment about gate was cities or gateway communities. I don't think there is a full understanding of the contributions that those communities make.

And they were not necessarily asked if they wanted to make them. It was just assumed by the BLM. And there's quite a bit of history of publication on gateway communities which I think that is one of the things that they MAC should also be brought up to speed on and it should be a topic for one of the meetings. I don't know if that helps. Somebody else can comment. Joel. Go ahead.

>> JOEL: Shea was indicating with the double hand raised that he wanted to say something.

>>: I was going to say I feel like probably a lot of the public comments about being against the monument were in response to the video the city of Utah put out in some of the comments [inaudible] so probably have to answer that question. It looks like maybe Jacqueline dropped off her second so if it's okay that I go ahead. The state does feel like when you are the President designates a monument it puts a target on the map. A place that people want to go see, place that people are going to go see so when you do that without commensurate funding and commensurate resources it puts a really big burden on the existing infrastructure and on the existing field office.

And gateway communities and the people that live there. And when you do that on a huge scale without having those resources that you need to be able to manage that influx of attention and that influx of people, we think that is bad policy. So, I think that sometimes gets interpreted is we are against the monument, and we are not. We would like to see a more targeted effort to protect these objects rather than this huge net cast out that says hey everybody, here is the siege monument for you to come and join and see. And we just recognize that there is a problem there. We love the country in southern Utah. We love the area encompassed by the monument. As you tie-in and as a state we are very proud of it, but we are concerned about the way that this is going that is not going to be a net positive on the landscape is not going to be a net gain on the landscape. In fact, we might lose the ecology. We might lose wildlife. We might lose some of these resources and some of the objects which have already started to lose. From pillaging and things like that.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

So, I guess maybe I did not explain the conflict that we are concerned about as well as we should have. We love the monument. We are not against it. But that is a concern for us.

>> BILL: I am going to jump in again because I really agree with the shade. It is walking a mile in my shoes. Walk a mile in Steve's left office shoes. We chose to live here. We like this place. We want to protect it. We don't necessarily see the methods of protections the same way that others do. Because we have such first-hand experience. It is nice for somebody in Moab to say all of us outdoors people are really prepared but that is not what comes to Escalante or to Kapp Creek. What comes there are people that see something on the Internet like a Swatch canyon, and they decide that they need to drive to the swag Canyon and despite their cardiovascular surgeons' warnings they want to hike it's at 4:30 in the afternoon.

And that leads to problems. And those problems fall on our shoulders. We are not the size of Moab. We have 800 residents. We have 10 people on our fire and rescue department, all volunteers. We don't have the equipment that can go down 35, 40, 50 miles down [inaudible] Road and BBT debt. So, to Shea's point we kind of would like to see somebody talk to us about what is it going to take to serve this problem and that does not mean we are against the monument. We just see it from a different perspective. Which is exactly what this committee was supposed to be formed around, different perspectives. Sarah.

>> SARAH: I will comment on a couple of things. Moving back to the science plan I think we need the list of objects and values [inaudible] referred to. That is a primary thing that we need. And with the science plan I would really love to understand or have some NLCS staff as I understand the science plan has to be approved by NLCS, so I don't know where they are in this conversation, but I have heard -- I've not heard anything about the participation from the BLM yet. So, I'm interested in that. And then also we have the RMP happening and how that science plan may or may not interface with RMP because honestly it could be a great body of work that can be put on a shelf or could be something that is used and integrated somehow with RMP.

And obviously a science plan is not going to be created by March. This will be an ongoing process. And the RMP draft will be coming up. Will be public scoping on that and that will move forward. So, I think there needs to be some kind of shared understanding of those processes and how our work on the science plan will have an impact as to what is happening on the ground at the monument. And the last thing, I mean it is hard -- I have a lot of strong reactions after that video and to your comments Shea because we all know that the state of Utah has really promoted tourism. They have [inaudible] campaign, there is this huge overflow impacts and Moab company product Moab, there's all kinds of visitors in Moab that are coming from all of the world. Definitely not prepared visitors all of the time and they have a lot of impacts there.

In part the promotion of these public lands that have seen just an uptick in visitation. And they know that there have been promotions going to places other than Zion because all of the problems they have



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

there. So, I would say the comment I made early about the video I think it's a gross misrepresentation of the relative the situation and I'm not going to get into the nitty-gritty of that. But I also want to say in my presentation I valued the local perspective. I think it's very important and integral. The MAC committee is intended to have the local perspective, but it is intended to have all of these other perspectives too that bring forth the information needed to be able to make recommendations. It is not growth the local perspective -- and this is where we differ. I know there are some members of this committee that there is this hierarchy I think of what should be considered in terms of knowledge and information.

And I think it is really important. I have been doing some research on places around the world that are working on conservation issues. Some with national park type statuses and some not. And it requires partnerships intergovernmental, working with Tribes, and also working with local communities. That is an integral part if we are going [inaudible] we cannot do that. I just wanted to say all of that and leave it there.

>> SCOTT: I will be pretty short. I started off this morning about talking about how we're going to be living in the dynamic world. From here on into the future. Things are going to be changing, all kinds of things are going to change. So that is what we need to be prepared for. That means we are never going to come to a place where all of these solutions are soft. We are never going to find the perfect and all solution for all of the problems that are going to arise with this Grand Staircase. It is not going to happen. So, what we do instead? We try to take each problem as it comes up and try to figure out the best way to solve it.

Both in terms of the goals of the monument and in terms of everybody's interest in the monument. So, I guess I will say for example if we have a search and rescue problem with funding, with resources, let's get more funding and resources for search and rescue. We don't have to solve all of the problems of the whole monument to solve individual problems that may present themselves along the way. And I am sure there is going to be a lot of problems along the way. I don't doubt it for a minute. And I guess I would tell you we should sort of embrace the idea that there are problems in front of us. We are smart, capable people who live in a smart, capable community and we can find ways to actually solve those problems one by one as they come access.

Without trying to change the whole world or change the whole applectart. So, I guess I would just say let's go at the future that way instead of trying to figure out a solution to a big problem that we may be able to solve in different ways faster ways, cheaper ways, whatever. If we just take one problem at a time and try to deal with it.

>> BILL: Scott, thank you. Please make your check out to Escalante fire and rescue. We appreciate it.

>> I will put a check in the mail [inaudible]



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

[Multiple people talking]

>> BILL: You and I should talk about this off-line sometime.

>>: [inaudible] in 1996. I've been a landowner since 1980 so we both have a long past in the area. So, I see myself in a place where I really think of myself as a local even though I bounced back and forth between southern Utah and here. And I bet you and I agree on a lot of things. If you and I --

[Multiple people talking]

>> BILL: Let me interject. Boulder does not have enough EMTs so every time there is a 507 call out our 506 gets dispatched to Boulder leaving Escalante totally unprotected by EMS service --

[Multiple people talking]

The two let's do this. Let's get this Shea to support us and we will create a tax or permit for every single out-of-state person who drives on 89 or 24 and that money goes to the local communities to support these extra services. There is a potential solution.

>> BILL: We tried that 26 years ago on Highway 12. We put a tollbooth on each end. You and I should talk about this. Joel, go ahead.

>> JOEL: I see that Jackie got back on. Lost her Internet and then -- now she is frozen again. Anyhow, I want to circle back before Jackie lost her Internet, she raised the question of why the public comment period was, that is what we were trying to discuss. Why did they have this feeling that members of the MAC were not supportive of the monument. And I appreciate shade raising his hand and I agree with Shea that the problem was the state video that he showed.

At the beginning of it. And I want to try to control my temper a little bit that I think Shea, I encourage you to continue to explore how the state can be a constructive part of this. And I really think that that was an incorrect way to begin [indiscernible] meeting. And you yourself, Shea, you were awkwardly to me trying to after that video navigate how the state can say in a three-minute video where they whine about the monument being big to talking about how they are underfunded. I would be interested in how the state has worked to try to increase the funding and resources for the monument. And I'm sorry, I pay plenty of taxes, both in Cain County and in cache County and my income tax the Attorney General took my tax money and made that slick video, and it was not constructive, and it is not going to be confusing to people about how the state is going to work constructively on [indiscernible]. That is, it.

>> SHEA: I think in the video it makes clear the states' goal was to address these issues through a legislative or a congressional process. Rather than to have a presidential proclamation that draws



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

these large rounders to have a collaborative effort between the state and the Federal government to identify a proper monument designation. I was starting to write a response to Krista, the staff and the resources in the monument just don't change when the monument grows or shrinks. So, without having a proper -- I'm not saying this very well, but if you made all of southern Utah a monument, one huge monument, it really would not solve the problems that we are talking about.

The problems would still exist. The monument designation doesn't solve that. Really, the monument designation should be limited enough that the monument staff can manage it. That the management -- the moment staff can cover the objects there and protect them, whatever that would protect means you, whether it's building a fence around an archaeological site or putting up the right kind of informational kiosk but the states position is that when you just have this huge monument designation that is too big of a burden on the monument staff and the monument resources.

So, these states solution is to try to navigate that through a congressional process that can add additional funding. The presidential proclamation cannot do that, but a congressional law could add additional funding. It could add additional staffing. It could provide with the BLM, or the management staff needs. So, I agree with Crist in the comments, we do need more funding, more resources. We do need more availability and access to those kinds of things [inaudible] whether it's a monument out. I think Krista is 100 percent right about that. But to put all of that on one office, the monument office, I think is a burden that is just insurmountable sometimes.

And that being said the state through other resources, the watershed restoration initiative, the grazing improvement program, they do put tax dollars on the ground to help do some vegetation treatments and probably there are people here that disagree with the vegan patient treatments or the grazing improvement structure that are put in place or they have recreation grants that they used to help develop trails and roads. The state does put money back, state money back into these were sources as well to deal those of the programs. And I hope that answers your questions, Joe. If it does not, I am not trying to --.

[Multiple people talking]

>> JOEL: I disagree with your premise and that's okay. I guess my main point is that that statement you made I don't see how that is constructive. For your role on this MAC. You tell me what statement you're concerned about? That the monument is too large and that it needs to be smaller or needs more resources.

>>: You disagree with that statement? Do you think that the current capacity of the monument staff is sufficient enough to mention the monument that they have been given?

>> No, I think we all can agree that it's insufficient.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>>: No, I think we can all agree that it's insufficient. I don't want to get into semantic argument was of the problem with the park is too large or that they resource to run of the park is too small. Obviously, there are other larger units in the monument at park in the U.S. I guess my point is that is how we started the whole dialogue this morning. And it diverted us from what the purpose of the MAC is. And what our roles as individuals on the MAC and what the goals we need to meet and our purposes. So, I am just raising and challenging the state to figure out how to be constructive on the actual things we need to do on [indiscernible]. And then I am going to be quiet.

>>: I appreciate the feedback. Thanks.

>> BILL: Sarah, you have your hand raised.

>> SARAH: I will second what Joel said. And I would say on this one I keep moving us back to the proclamation, the charter at NLCS. That is what we have. It is our job to fulfill the charter that we have. And that Shea we are suggesting is counter to that and our ability to protect the objects of value that are in the monument as it stands with the proclamation we have. And the charter that we have. That is our job. That is what we are tasked to do. And shrinking something -- I love the idea of providing more resources to support the monument and protect objects of value. We talk about a lot of things here. I hope that people are thinking about climate change and biodiversity and what this monument can do for not just of local communities, which I think it's really important for the local communities, but the region -- this Monday plays an important role in that so I hope that we can really focus on what we need to focus on instead of veering off into the other land. I feel like that video pulled us into.

And also, the state had contributive funding, not merely what is needed, but there have been resources dedicated to supporting [inaudible] I was going to mention earlier the [inaudible] partnership is also a body that we could be working more closely with. There are organizations, entities, individuals, government agency folks who all care about this monument including the folks on this committee and there are resources there for us to work together and cross jurisdictionally, too. That is all I have to say.

>> BILL: I will just make a quick comment and might be well received, and it might not be. I was not offended by Shea's video presentation. I think we have to be careful that we have such a strong bias in the way we think of the monument that we can't leave a little bit of room for seeing a different perspective. And I may be guilty of that, too. But I don't agree with all of the scientific comments I heard from legitimately nonscientific people, but they have a right to say they have concerns about thanks. We all agree on one thing. That it is a valuable area of land. It is important. There has to be a level of protection. What that is we are struggling with, but we all come down to the same fact that there are not enough resources.

Yes, there is investment. There's investment from the state. There's an investment from the city.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

There's investment from individual people. But we don't seem to have enough resources and that is what always leads us to collide and start to have these differences. If it is that valuable and whoever is present that says there that value that there has to be a proclamation and specific guidance documents, then there should be resources made available.

And if nothing else Harry and a day should go back and say that is a clear piece of advice from the Advisory Committee because in the absence of those resources, they are struggling to get anything done. They are missing pieces. But we keep coming back to that. We are missing pieces. We are missing and immature. We are missing a science plan. We are missing information for the RMP. And yet the next meeting somebody will be telling us we have to vote on something immediately while we don't have the right information. So hairy and Ade, please take that message back. And the strongest language you can possibly and if you need strong language never hesitate to come to Escalante, we will give it to you. Does that make sense, Harry?

>> Message received. And we talk about that often. You heard our state director Greg this morning - I don't know if Greg is still on, he was making a comparison of the number of positions we had when the monument was first created. To what it is today. You know we need more resources. Everyone knows we need more resources. We are trying to manage this big piece of land that causes this controversy that we have been talking about for the last hour or so. It has torn some people apart. Should be better? Should be smarter? They need more people. Do they need less people? If we are going to manage this the way, it needs to be ICS meeting more bodies in the future. And we are trying. We are not the only group in the government that needs more people but certainly this monument is large and there are some spectacular resources associated with it and we need a few more people to help us manage it appropriately.

>> BILL: But you come back and use that same adjective that Shea started the meeting with. The monument is large. And you can't help but look at that and say if you don't have the resources and it is that large you are going to lead to a conclusion. So somehow, we have to bring those two things into proper balance. If it is large, then you need large resources. You need large funding. And you need an honest discussion about how you are going to do a large monument. And that includes a discussion with the local communities.

>> I don't disagree.

>> JACQUALINE: I'm sorry asked that question and then my Internet went out, so I missed almost everything until Joel started talking. It sounds like you all had a good discussion and one response to what you just said, Bill, is I would rather us start with it is large and we need more resources. Versus it is large and we need to cut everything back.

>> BILL: Yeah. That is fine. But leave room for a little difference of opinion. And that is all I am say because we don't seem to be getting past that. So, if it is large and we need more resources or we



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

need different methodology or we need whatever then -- I am using Scott's logic now. Let's jump in and move forward with that. But in the absence of that we still seem to be stuck on holy cow it is really big, we keep inviting the entire world to come here. I don't think that we are necessarily recognizing the 26 years of just tourism and the effect it has had on this land. I live here. Stephen lives here. Stephen will tell you; I know he will, you go down hole in the rock road 100 yards you developed a city that was never supposed to be there for dispersed camping. Scott, these are your people. They are just honest to God wrecking the place. It is not OHVs, it's not ATVs, it's not UTVs, and it's not motorcycles –

[Multiple people talking]

Those are my people, and I am for managing and regulating those people –

[Multiple people talking]

If we can't find a way to make it reasonable and safe for those people, safe for the monument for them to be there, then we have to have less of them there. Maybe we need a permit. We need a pass. We need timed entry. We need things to control the flow so that we can actually mitigate the responses.

>> BILL: And you know this. Then you have to have an opportunity to put all of those things on the table and rationally, calmly with communication and coordination discuss them. It is not that we are not doing that. But for 26 years that has not been done. Let me just go -- this is an organization called Matador.com. It apparently is some kind of worldwide travel agency. They came out this very morning, my wife found it at 5:00 in the morning, with a selection of the top places to visit for this van alive, this Boone docking. And Escalante represents the number three place in all of the United States and here is their logic.

The ease of cost free, permit free camping on Bureau of Land Management land. Harry and Ade, listen to me, you are going to have waves of sprinter vans showing up on hole in the rock road. And they parked everywhere. The erosion is ridiculous. And it is not being maintained. It is not being policed. There is no management plan for that. Their garbage falls on county residents to pay to have removed. That has to be addressed so we can say let's protect the objects and we can have great philosophical and scientific discussions. In the meantime, 300 sprinter vans show up and they want to live there free. They want to come into the visitor center and take Escalante water. They want to come in and dump their garbage add to the nearest side, so they don't have to deal with it.

That is an issue. But we are inviting them. We have not stopped that. They interact with the ranchers. They camp at watering holes. They interfere with cabs on the road. There are all kinds of negative consequences from all of that tourism. And we have to live with it.

>> Bill, we can solve this. This is America. Make them pay. Create a \$100 fee for driving down the



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

hole in the rock road and you will find this problem almost solved. It could be done.

>>: Social justice problems, right?

>> BILL: If I park a fire engine across hole in the rock road and put a 100-dollar fee -- that is what's going to happen, I'm going to get arrested.

>> Sorry to jump in. I actually have a four o'clock obligation that I cannot change so I have to jump off. I really apologize, everybody. I know I am probably living during the conversation that I should be here the most. Again, I would just say we agree there are limited resources. We need more productive -- with resources that we have. And we are not battling about the size of it. We are just deciding what in that inventory should be focused on first. I have to bounce. I appreciate every. Thanks.

>> BILL: Thanks, Shea. Sarah, did you have a comment?

>> SARAH: I don't know if everybody is watching the chat, but I wanted to call out Krista's comment because I know it did not go to the public. But I agree and I mentioned this earlier that we are tasked with managing this monument, not talking about the reduced monument. And to Shea's last comment I think that we need to figure out how to bring the resources to bear to protect this monument and to meet the proclamation and that our focus should be that and not on reducing the size of the landscape. That should not even be part of our conversation in my mind. It is frustrating. Thanks.

>> JACQUALINE: I have a copy that I imagine Sarah has of a draft science plan for The Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument that I think [inaudible] put together in 2021 and that might be -- it is not anything formal. But it could be a good starting place for us to look at something to get ideas until the BLM is able to get their draft formally approved for us to look at. Because then we could start to see what types of things people address in science plans specifically a science plan for this monument. So, I have a copy and I am sure Sarah has a copy.

>> SARAH: Yeah. The BLM has a copy as well and I am hoping that that is being integrated into what David mentioned. And I would say there's a lot of science [inaudible] comments obviously from [inaudible] that contributed so a lot has been done that we have access to, and I think that we and it sounded like David, you are close to whatever to what you are working on so we can look at multiple documents and information. To be able to move forward.

>> BILL: Here is what I would suggest. If that exists Sarah and Jackie, if you could send me a copy of it and perhaps, we can have a discussion off-line or outside of the context of this meeting while David is putting his plan together, we will try to get as much information consolidated as possible. We still have to talk about when the next meeting will occur. But that might give us something that we can share across the committee over the holiday.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> JACQUALINE: Sarah's will be more up to date than mine is. Minor edits on the document.

>> SARAH: And we have updated versions of that.

>> HARRY: I need to set the record straight on two things. I had to step out for a moment a little while ago while David was here. I am not exactly sure NTID if you need to come on you can, when David said that we were almost may be done was something. If we are talking about the science plan, we are not almost done with the science plan. Basically, what some folks asked for from the screw. Is just a basic science inventory. It is a [inaudible]
[Multiple people talking]

>> HARRY: We had some direction to work with USGS some time ago. I think, Sarah, you are aware of that. We have your information. That partners have given us. USGS has that information. I got a proposal from her, from USGS recently. We are reviewing that proposal. So, we are still a long way out from flopping something out on the table and saying this is what we think we need. Getting back to Scott your questions about what we think we need. We are getting there. I know it has been a slow process. Bill, you can keep beating me up mentioning the 26 years we should have something. It is what it is. We are trying to move forward. The second thing I want to set the record clear on, we are not blind to what is going on the hole in the rock road and other places. There are people all over, not just in monument, all over southern Utah, that discovered a lot of these places, that discovered the opportunity to be able to camp where they want to, disperse camping.

We are dealing with a the [inaudible] [inaudible] field offices going with it [inaudible] is dealing with it, everybody's dealing with that. It seems like and I'm not pointing at this completely, but it seems like during the height of the pandemic when people are looking to social distance themselves, they came here. I am seeing people in places I have never seen that before. But part of the issue we are writing this plan. I only have -- I have two planners; one is really new. The other is super busy. That is Turiya trying to work on -- some travel management plan but the Resource Management Plan. I did go out and look at that area you are referring to, the hole in the rock road, I went out with Jake and looked at that. We sure hand up in the air and said what are we going to do? We have two dresses somehow but it's not just there, it's all of these low places.

So, we are trying to look at everything and say how are we going to addresses. Are we going to have to make it a permit only place? We have to start limiting the and/or people to in? I don't know the answers yet, but we are trying to get on it. Part of it is trying to write the [inaudible] and trying to address it and figure out what we are going to depart under some the places around the monument that it is hard to just look at one and focus on that because so much is going on all over the place.

So, I am not unaware of what is going on there as well as of the places where we are seeing the impact.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> BILL: I am going to suggest to Scott [inaudible] and I apologize Scott for teasing you a little bit but in the case of Holt and Arak that is such a complicated road, and it has way down there such attractive stops for people they get them into trouble. I would like to suggest that I work with the local law enforcement, the local first responders, and we would give you a legitimate plan to at least consider. And I think that is in the vein of what Scott was suggesting. Let's just pick some of these things up until with them. We are not going to put a tollbooth there. But I think we could give you honest suggestions for being on the ground and seeing this.

>> I think that it's great. I would like to see your plan. Why not have a tollbooth? That -- let's include that is one of the options. People should pay to maintain the place that they enjoy so much. I don't see that as a deal killer at all.

>> BILL: Once again, send your check to Escalante –

>>: This is only for out-of-state residents or [inaudible] property in southern Utah.

>> BILL: Harry, does that sound like an opportunity?

>>: It sounds like a good opportunity.

>> BILL: And I would include Brian Watson in that.

>> SARAH: Can you confirm Bill exactly what the proposal is about?

>> BILL: Are you familiar at all with the hole in the rock road? As you first enter it is about 100 yards down there is an area off on the right-hand side as you're going down hole in the rock that used to be a kiosk, some basic information, a dumpster, and just a small handful of camping sites. This has now grown literally to an enormous size and those are not maintained roads. Those are roads that have been carved out by all of these food docking people and they just keep expanding and expanding and expanding.

So, the erosion has gotten horrific. And to the point where it is affecting private land from the [inaudible] ranch and from the association. So, it is affecting private land. It is affecting public land. And there are no controls to it.

>> SARAH: Yeah.

>> BILL: The garbage and to be blunt human waste that is being deposited is ridiculous.

>> SARAH: Yeah. We have our [inaudible] stewardship program that we go out with volunteers and work to help address visitor impacts like that in partnership with the BLM. I was just wondering the



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

proposal you are talking about is a proposal to address [inaudible] increase funding resources or is it -
- is it more than that?

>> BILL: To document the problem. To come up with possible solutions and to see how that could affect the same type of a boon docking all the way down the hole in the rock road. There has to be a way to address literally it's illegal for these people to be camping where ranchers have watering facilities. They are not allowed to do that. It's unsafe for them to be doing docking in [inaudible] off of the road.

>> SARAH: I would suggest to Jade and folks from the stewardship program may also be involved in that conversation because I know that they have been trying to also work on [inaudible] related to that. I have an echo. I don't know what is going on.

>> BILL: We are happy to discuss that, but this would be result oriented –

[Multiple people talking]

>> SARAH: Okay.

>>> I think we call that area tin can flat. At least some area refers to it as tin can flat. And I would like to go with you, and you go there. Because I know it is an issue. I think somebody is talking.

>> BILL: Any more comments? We are ahead of schedule, which is not a bad thing. I am going to bring up one question to Harry about the cultural training program. That he talked about. And Harry, I apologize. This is probably a tough question. And I don't mean it to be. It is something that is very personal to me. You and I have about 26 years of history. So, my wife and I used to own a business in Escalante, a restaurant. And as a customer we would get a number of Navajo families that would sell their arts and crafts at the various overlooks, especially at the head of the rocks.

And we developed quite a friendship with a number of families. Out of that I learned quite a bit about their culture. I developed some really good friendships. I understood a lot more about some of their arts and crafts. And to me it was a fantastic example that people visiting the monument or just traveling down Highway 12 could make that connection with the DNA and one day they came to our restaurant and said they had been basically asked to leave by the BLM.

And that really to be honest with you hurts me. Those were friends. That to me was an important part of the local culture of southern Utah. And a time and a place to connect. And I don't know why. Yeah, there are stories and rumors or whatever, but they were asked to leave. I would like to see those guy her look at kinds of people come back. I would like to see more Indigenous people employed ask the BLM. Because I think that close connection really gives everyone an opportunity. Locals, visitors, everyone an opportunity to learn more about the Tribal culture and the history of this



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

land.

I enjoyed going to Canyon to say and Chaco Canyon and Monument Valley. I am always impressed with the staff they have. It is fantastic. Number 1, I am not asking you why those people were disinvented. But are we going to invite them back? Are we going to welcome that kind of local connection?

>> I think in answer to your question one place I need to start is to find out why they're asked to leave. I don't know how many years ago that was. Whether I was still at the monument. Whether I was with the field office. But I would like to do a little investigating to see why they were asked to leave. Maybe I could talk to our Law Enforcement if I that are. When you travel, and certain of done that, being in this year as long as you have in me being here as long as I have you travel between here and page and beyond or you go to the North rim there are several places you can pull over and visit with Native Americans and purchase jewelry and other kinds of things.

And similarly, I like that connection. I think a lot of people like that connection to be able to get off and visit with somebody. Particular somebody native, somebody from the area. So, I will look into that. The second part of your question. We are mandated to try to be as diverse as possible. When we hire somebody, we hired the most qualified individuals. That is how we do our hiring. But in that we also try to pay attention to diversity and try to be as diverse as we can. So, it is helpful, I am hopeful, that as job opportunities come up anybody who is qualified should apply for those positions but certainly if there are Native Americans particularly locals, Native American or not, who want to apply for those positions, they should do that.

And that is one way that we can potentially increase our diversity across the board in the monument.

>> BILL: I appreciate that. And anything can do to get that going again I know I would really appreciate.

>> I made notes. I will get you an answer. At least something of an answer soon. I want to talk to her own Law Enforcement and look at that route. I know there's something to do with vending in that area across Highway 12 so I will take a look at that and get you an answer. There have been other things that people wanted to do there. Some races. I think somebody wanted to do a foot race or bike race through there and they were told they could not do it and I'm certain that is reflected somewhere and are monument mention plan, but I have to look at that and see where that is, and I will get that to you.

>> BILL: We still have marathons. We just had one in October. Between Boulder and Escalante. And we have bicycle races across Highway 12 all of the time.

>> I can recall when there was some dispute with that as well. In the early days of the minute there



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

were some that said you cannot have the bicycle race across the or the foot race across there. They met with the then monument manager and they figure that. I know I participated in the top of Zion run from Boulder to Zion twice. And we ran right through Escalante. So, I know we overcame some of that. I just have to find out specifically about the offending piece because funding could be a little bit different.

>> BILL: Okay. Any other comments?

>> SARAH: I wanted to make one comment just maybe steering us a little bit back toward monument management. I know a while back we talked about [inaudible] Leo's on staff. I think that was the thing hear you mention you did not have the funding for that you are working on hiring a science ordinate or. So maybe it is something that this committee could help work on in terms of finding resources to support. Tribal liaison positions within the BLM. Because I know that is something you expect -- expressed an interest in. And I know you mentioned hiring of a science coordinator, so I wanted to see where that was.

>>: It is further along than the science plan. I hope that feels -- helps you feel a little bit better. We do have a position on our table of organization that would allow us to higher -- is a hybrid, ecologist science ordinate or will what we return to do is figure out how to get two positions out of one. And we thought we need an ecologist; we need a science ordinate or, so we have been looking at that. We actually have a job description that would talk -- that would describe that. And we are waiting for that to be approved. If that gets approved, we will probably hire in that fashion. And ecologist science ordinate. I don't know if that would be 50/50 or how that would be, but we will be able to get the science ordinate are out of that.

On the liaison there are requests across the state for positions that offices say they need. For example, I have a paleontologist in Dr. Alan Titus. I have been having to loan Alan to price, to Vernal, and to Moab for projects they are working in. Moab in particular desperately needs a paleontologist. They keep asking for it. They do not have the money for it. Likewise, I keep asking for eight liaison, Tribal liaison, Greg is fully aware of that. I don't want to keep harping on him. We keep raising that request. If we had a Tribal liaison, it would be awesome. We would be able to have somebody to work directly with the names, that the Venus, others that are trying to help us incorporate more Tribal thought and thinking into the monument but right now I don't have that, so we have to lean pretty heavy on the archaeologist to do that for us.

So that ask for its liaison is not necessarily falling on deaf ears by the ears that is falling on do not have the money to give us to help get the position here. So, science ordinate is here relatively soon. That is a double job ecologist science coordinator and then hopefully down the road when we start working -- when we start doing this coaster chip, when we start getting deeper into that, I really need somebody that can pick that up and run with it rather than do that as a lateral assignment of some kind so I am hoping by that time we can try to get a Tribal liaison.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> SARAH: I thought the science coordinator was approved already at the state level. Like the state level submitted to DC –

>> >>: It is approved. What we are trying to do is see if we can get it approved to be that Jewel position. Ecologist/science coordinator.

>> SARAH: Okay. Thanks.

>> BILL: We are ahead of schedule. But there's nothing wrong of with that if we end up finishing early. I want to make sure that everybody has an opportunity, again, if there are any more questions or comments. I personally felt the morning was very productive. Whether it is a little irritating to some of us are not at least we got feelings and impressions on the table. And I think that is good. Here, do you want to say something?

>> I thought about something else in response your question, Sarah, I don't want to leave you completely hanging. The coordinator position was approved. We are looking at seeing if we can make it to this dual position which I think would really help us out. We are waiting for that particular part to come through. Declassification. The other thing we are up against and it's not a bad thing is we have hiring managers in the state office that work directly with our offices we have all dispositions in acute that we are trying to get hired and that wasn't is in the SKU so soon is that bumps up and they can work directly with us to get that higher will be able to do that in one fashion or there. Into either just be the science ordinate or the ecologist science ordinate it but it's in the queue which is a good thing. That means they are aware of it, and they know that they need to help us get that out of the street and get that advertised.

>> BILL: We have a couple administrative things to deal with and one was brought up this morning by Jackie. The charter calls for an annual report summarizing the committees act it is and a consequence of the past year and makes recommendations for future needs and activities. Harry, you can jump in again. I am assuming that is a calendar year. Not a fiscal year. So, we are obviously in December. Jackie brought up a good point. There are all kinds of input that should be involved in this. And we are looking at basically a couple weeks. To get that accomplished. You could probably do that in the context of recording three MAC meetings and summarizing what we have covered. What concerns me is the specifics of making recommendations of future needs and activities.

So that is what the charter calls for. And Harry, I guess I would like your input as CFO. Number 1, we need to get this in by the end of the year. And what really should it contain?

>> I think you are spot on. I am going to sit down with David and with David figure out what we think needs to go in that report. I think we will visit directly with you on that so that you have some of the information. But I think you already mentioned it. I would like to be able to at a minimum to put in that report some of these results, some of these things that precipitated from our three meetings



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

this year. There are some thoughts that are close to recommendations that have come out of those three meetings. But I think what David and I need to do first is to sit down and look at the transcript of the meetings. And pull out what we think should be in that report and then visit with you and see if our thoughts a line.

>> BILL: I think that is fine. I just want to make sure that I can turn around and get input from the entire MAC. And especially if we are going to have anything dealing with needs and recommendations. We can talk about the generalities of funding or more people, but I think we should be more specific than that. And that is going to take some time to flush out.

>> And what we might be able to do -- and again, I don't know if table can -- David can respond with this right now, but I will visit with him to see what kind of reports have come out of the pass and what they contain. But I think of David, and I can look at transcripts from the previous two meetings and try this week and next to try to look at transcripts from this meeting, proceedings from this meeting, we will try hard to get you something as soon as we can.

>> BILL: Sarah, I see your hand is up.

>> SARAH: I just want us to be really careful about what is considered a recommendation and what we only put in a report that is really a summary of conversations. Especially given -- I don't think that it is responsible to put together a document that wasn't intended to be a set of recommendations by picking and choosing from conversations. It makes me really nervous. I just don't think -- I think it is fine to say we are not in a position to provide a report that would be used to make recommendations on things because we are not. I am just -- I find that to be very -- and I think the BLM spending their time going over the transcripts and picking and choosing what goes into a report seems like not a good use of their time. They have a lot to do. The scoping comment summer just came out. They are working on revising the alternatives. I select that that is counter to everything their abasement saying about the list of objects of value for the proclamation and we need to get more information about the alternatives, and we need to see how these scoping comments are going to be synthesized into the alternative. [inaudible] whatever the charter says I am sure that we can put together a document that says we are not in a position to at this time. That is my individual opinion and I'm sure others. [Multiple people talking].

>> BILL: I hear you but be careful because we keep coming back to this legal document, the charter. That is what the charter requires.

[Multiple people talking]

We have done some things for three meetings and I'm not saying the BLM should spend all the time going over the transcripts. I think we could come up with a very general summary of what we have accomplished. But then again, I to don't want to be criticized for that is an expectation of this committee. That something be brought forward in an annual report. So, we are not going to resolve it



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

today, but I do think everyone should be thinking about this and input into it. So, I would say we put it on the table, we know it has to be done, Harry and David and I can discuss it. I will make sure everybody gets information as quickly as possible. And using the Scott Berry approach let's just go do it. No, I'm just –

>> There's a lot of other expectations in this trend that are not being met too. It's not like taking one thing and saying it says we have to have a report, but we are not doing 80 percent of the things in the charter yet. So, it is just really disconnected to me --

[Multiple people talking]

>> BILL: I agree with you entirely. But where do you start? I think this is the problem that the committee is having. You have to start somewhere. And I think that is kind of Scott's advice is okay maybe these things are not going to be perfect. And I want to be very careful with the report. So that everybody agrees with it. But if that is a requirement let's get it done.

>> That is my advice, Bill. Of course, I am a lawyer. I could write you a report that was 10 pages long it's actually nothing if you want me to pick so we can clearly write a report that basically summarizes our activities today and [inaudible] says something general about where we hope to go in the future. To give more information about the science plan. We would like to participate in more effectively in the preparation of RMP. We would like to have a chance to submit ideas for solving problems at the monument that could be incorporated in the plan. We can come up with stuff like that. It is not that giant. If anyone -- I'm not going to be sticking in my version of the road there and I don't expect Bill or anybody else considering, we want the money but to go and that is our recommendation. We can find a middle ground we can talk about.

>> BILL: Okay. Harry and David, I hope you're okay with this practice is something that they make is going to do. Off-line online so that we get some information together and start coming to consensus on what that report should contain. Does their feel comfortable with that? Just give me a thumbs up.

>> DAVID: We started our first MAC meeting [inaudible] October 18th. Every October I have to submit an annual report and that report -- let's see here, that report goes into this database and basically -- wait can you see? Can you see the report?

>> BILL: Yeah.

>> DAVID: And all public facing documents have to be included in this report. Minutes, agendas, what have you. And I think that it could be as simple as a summary of what was accomplished on what dates. And what was voted on. Because if a recommendation has been voted on then that is when would include that recommendation not just arbitrarily going through the minutes [inaudible] of



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

what we think is important. But this -- I don't think it is due on the calendar year. Because this is the report, I have to submit every October. Let me bring up one other administrative point and this is just from my personal experience as a one-time public official. We have an annual operating cost associated with the forwarding the can least activity and it's estimated to be \$40,000. I think it is appropriate if we or Harry and David somehow document how that budget whether it is actual direct or indirect expenses, how that money has been spent or not spent. Just so that there is complete transparency for the committee.

>> BILL: Sarah, do you have a comment?

>> SARAH: It sounds like it is a fiscal year. Obviously, we are in December now and if it needs to be submitted in October. And then also as I recall we've only voted other than approving minutes on one thing which was to keep the range of alternatives that existed in the AMS moving forward. For the BLM to consider. I think that was [inaudible] and I could be -- am I wrong about that?

We had a vote to move the bylaw --
[Multiple people talking]

Forward to the --

>> JACQUALINE: And we voted on the chair.

>> SARAH: As far as RMP related I know bylaws and [inaudible] connected that as far as anything that would impact BLM us ongoing work related to the RMP.

>> DR. WEPPNER: So, David will give us more information and we will take it from there.

>> SARAH: So maybe it won't be due until next October. Okay.

>> DR. WEPPNER: I worry that we missed one but I'm not going to worry about it.

>> DAVID: I lost my controls. I don't know where they are at. I might have to leave and come back. There we go. But that is correct. We started at FY 23 sore first report is not going to be due until next October. The reports that I've done thus far were more or less really simple. It was just a matter of coming up with a budget if we had a quorum this is what we estimated the cost for in person meetings.

>> DR. WEPPNER: Since it has been brought up the bylaws are still being reviewed. So, we don't have any information on that that we are going to be able to share or vote on. That will have to be at a subsequent meeting. I guess the last subject that I would like to discuss is Number 1 the timing for the next meeting and then discuss possible agenda items. And Harry and David, I don't know if you



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

have any ideas for the timing of the next meeting.

>> DAVID: Once I get the FR package completed and routed [inaudible] we are talking ruffling three to four months. So, March, April. Is what I am thinking.

>> DR. WEPPNER: Any comments? Sarah, I see your hand up.

>> SARAH: I was going to say I was hoping that we could have the presentation on the range of alternatives [inaudible] but it sounds like it may be [inaudible] may be out at that point.

>> DAVID: That is going to be the challenge too is to try to Line up our meetings with the planning effort. And what I would like to do is not just a schedule one meeting for that FR, but I would like to schedule at least two or three throughout the year.

>> SARAH: I would say if we can get that done before that comes out that would be helpful. If we are going to look at those alternatives more closely [inaudible] more time [inaudible] the scoping comments.

>> DAVID: I am writing this down. [inaudible]

>> DR. WEPPNER: And the other comments?

>>: I agree with Sarah. I think one early meeting so we can have something to say before the draft [inaudible] comes out. Traditionally there's a thing called administrative draft EIS. It is usually like chapters of a draft EIS that or distribute it separately usually to cooperate agencies so states, towns, states governments, Tribes with access to chapters of the [inaudible] if the plan is to actually release the draft EIS to the public in the spring it seems like those early chapters might be available later on in the year and certainly in March. So, I guess I am kind of thinking that I would rather have a chance to participate early on while they mark if you will be still going on. Then wait until [inaudible] released to the public. I do realize we will have an opportunity, after it comes out, but I would like to participate in that market process.

>> DAVID: Part of the problem with that Scott is I cannot submit or cannot release anything to the MAC until I can release it to the public. The cooperating agency meetings always occur before I can release anything to the public. So, like I said, it is a bit of a challenge lining up these different needs, but I am hoping early March.

>>: I appreciate those limitations. I'm not sure how to solve them either. It's kind of frosting. Maybe one of the carpeting agencies will want to talk to me about it so that would be handy.

>> DAVID: I already ran into this issue before because I wanted to get you all the AMS before it



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

went to the cooperating agencies, and I quickly learned that I cannot do that.

>> DR. WEPPNER: Sarah.

>> SARAH: How does that work you can do a presentation about the range of alternatives though. And how and what that looks like, right? That was what we were kind of working for toward this meeting that did not happen. How each of the alternatives meets purpose and need in the range that the BLM is choosing to move forward with? Is that something that we can discuss?

>> DAVID: Are you talking about the public scoping document that just came out?

>> SARAH: No, I am talking about how -- maybe it is a fine line but sort if you have the range and we as a committee say keep the full range like A through eco- and now scoping comes have come out and now the BLM is going to take into consideration those scoping comments and then there will be - - this goes back to a question Joel asked in the very beginning will be revised range moving forward, right? So, I thought that we were going to be able to discuss what that range looked like. As it evolved.

>> DAVID: [inaudible] are you still on? I am sorry, Sarah, I don't want to give you an answer that is [inaudible]

>>: This is important because traditionally the draft [inaudible] agency will describe a preferred alternative so that is one of the things that is going on in the month before the draft EIS is released. So, since a preferred alternative is very often the one that actually turns out to be the one that is chosen, we really would like to have a conversation about that. Even if it is not presented formally as being something that is going to be in the draft EIS, but I think MAC would like to have an opportunity to weigh in on matters that bear on whether or not something is a preferred alternative are not.

>>: Did you want me to comment whether there be a review of alternatives before the DEIS came out? Okay. That is not currently on a time like. It is certainly something I brought up. It is certainly something that sometimes happens. The BLM does that less often. Then say the Forest Service. I spoke with a contractor because they work with a lot of different agencies, I wondered kind of where that stood since I have worked with a few. It certainly is something that it is really up to Scott and higher-level management state office and above that could make any change or time for that.

So, what I would recommend is that you put in a request with rationale to Harry and he would have to bump it up through Scott. But it is not on the timeline right now. Of course, eight would also be weighing in on that but it's not a decision we can make at the district level.

>> SARAH: Thanks.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> DR. WEPPNER: One last thing that I would like to discuss is agenda items for the next meeting. And I want to preface it by saying we can come up with a list of wishes for what an agenda item would be but that is not going to guarantee that it actually will make it to the agenda. Ultimately that is a DFO responsibility to decide and if there are complications like with the science plan that it was not on the agenda. So, I can see we have talked about the inventory of objects and values. We've talked about the science plan again. We have talked about a shared understanding of the RNB plan like give me specifics that we can begin considering as agenda items.

>> JACQUALINE: I have four or five in my presentation that are all pretty clearly listed.

>> DR. WEPPNER: We did. We will take all of those, Jackie.

>> SARAH: Repeat what those are, please.

>> JACQUALINE: Hold on a second.

>> SARAH: While she is pulling that up, I would like to request an update on the range of alternatives being considered which it sounds like it has to be given to the state office to determine. Whether that can happen.

>> JACQUALINE: I am ready. The first one was identification of specific measurable achievable relevant and time bound or smart goals for the MAC. What should we be doing. And when should we be doing them by. The second one was a presentation on the specific types of information that GS NM staff and the DFO need from us to manage the monument and meet plan objectives. The third one was working on the report but now it sounds like we have until next October to do that. So at least we have the timeline now. But what other contents, who puts them together, and what is our timeline there to finish that. How will we distribute that workload. The fourth one was planning or developing a protocol for transition and onboarding new MAC members in leadership. And the last one was developing a process for reviewing research proposals and allocating funding. That all pull from the charter.

>> SARAH: Are you wanting those all on the agenda for us to discuss and maybe initiate or solve at the next meeting?

[Multiple people talking]

>> JACQUALINE: They don't all have to be at the next meeting. We were supposed to suggest items and those were some that came up for me.

>> SARAH: Thanks.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

>> BILL: Anyone else?

>> SARAH: I had a question on positions that are still vacant. I know that we were told that there are new people coming and I think David, you are probably the best one to answer this. What is the timeline? Why is it taking so long?

>> DAVID: The original vote was that the two positions for geology and paleontology would be appointed before the October meeting. It has been approved at the state level, those two positions, those two nominations rather. But they have not been -- they are approved for employment, but they have not yet been appointed at the DOI level. I do know that there was a hiccup with one of the applications. I cannot speak about it. But it is being worked through. I have asked Carrie just within the last two weeks because I knew this meeting was coming up, I was like why Kate what are the chances that we will have these people available and appointed by then and I did not get a solid answer because she did not know either.

Now we have -- I have 13 applications sitting on my desk right now that world in on November 4th and up until last week I was still getting documents from people like letters of recommendations and whatnot. But what I have seen so far looking through those documents is there is going to be a lot of competition, or we might have three folks that are vying for a position. And I really hate to see that. So, what I'm going to do is I'm going to go through resumes, and I am going to for example hate so and so we already have a person approver nomination, proffer appointment as a botanist or geologist so here is what I do have open. Do you think maybe somehow with your education we could squeeze you into another one of these open positions? So that is something that I have to go through resumes and that I have to pick up the phone and talk to folks and what have you.

I do have one or two for archaeology and I have one for social science. An application for social science. So, there is some positives, light at the end of the tunnel. And one thing that has happened, another positive, is that this administration the last call for nominations they approved it within just a few months.

>> SARAH: I know that this recent situation suggests that there are some barriers to paths that are not in-state control or obviously local control. I am wondering too what resources do you need? Is there anything we can do to help support your ability? It sounds like it's a lot of work to go through each one.

>> DAVID: It is a lot of work. I just have to focus. I could spend an entire week just focusing on that and nothing else. And I just have not had time in the last month. But once they get to the state office they are generally -- we sit down with the state director and the associate state director. Harry myself and monument manager and Greg will ask questions. Why do you think this person qualifies for this position or whatnot. So, he has -- ask some hard questions and we have a conversation then they make the recommendations to [inaudible] to the state and the Governor's office and then from there it goes to DOI. Or through the Washington office to DOI. It used to take over a year for that



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

process. So, fingers crossed we will hear something soon. But hopefully before March.

>> SARAH: Okay. Thanks.

>> David: Unfortunately, there is not a whole lot I can do other than just keep calling care and asking for updates. And I will say that Carrie -- I think it is every Friday she has a call out meeting with some leadership in Washington and she has told me that she has brought it up week after week. So, they are well aware, and they do have it on their radar. I am just not sure really what the hiccup is.

>> BILL: Moving forward we will take the suggestions for agenda items. I will work with David and Harry. Like I said, just because you were recommended it not mean they will end up on the agenda, but we will read through that and make sure everybody is aware of it. Okay? Hank, hopefully you are still on the line. I guess we would like to know about putting back on the agenda a Tribal culture presentation from you and anyone else you want to involve.

>> SARAH: It looks like he is here. Hank.

>> HANK: Sorry about that. Let's go ahead and give us the tribe community an opportunity to present and also continue to reach out to some of the Tribes before meeting. Maybe I can let you all know who is going to be presenting. And that we can actually meet the timeline to have the presentation, and everything submitted to the chair and to Harry so they can incorporate that into their agenda for their presentation. Thank you.

>> BILL: Thank you, Hank. That is good news. Again, any other comments? Suggestions? Concerns? I think we did a pretty good job. We are ending up just about 25 minutes early. But again, from my perspective we had a good day. We definitely had some robust conversations with each other. And there is nothing wrong with that. So, with that, Harry, or David, do you want to add any concluding –

[Multiple people talking]

>>: Can you summarize –

>> BILL: I can't go for the whole year of 2023, but I think what David is saying is probably a March timeframe for the next meeting. If he wants to get more in, then that he is going to have to communicate that schedule to me off-line. But let him do that. Let him do that job to figure it out.

>> DAVID: That is my plan come up with some draft agenda space what we talked about today. Whether it is three meetings a year or four meetings. I don't know yet. But once we get that Federal Register approved and all of those subsequent meetings then we can have one every month. Starting in March theoretically. The question is do we want to. But we could do -- I think we could definitely



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Monument Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

squeeze in four meetings between March and December. And what makes it less complicated is doing them virtually. I know some folks do not like the virtual world, but it does make things a lot less complicated. Or too we could even do a hybrid. If someone has to travel for work and they can't make it to can nab then we could do a hybrid meeting. I just bought two devices called meeting owls. They are designed just for those types of meetings. I will be in touch. There shortly.

>> BILL: Hank, we will keep the agenda description as we had it for this meeting for the cultural training if that is okay with you.

>> HANK: I appreciate it.

>> BILL: Okay. Any other comments? Harry, do you want to add any final comments?

>>: I just want to thank everybody today. I thought the flow from my perspective which well. I really appreciated hearing the individual comments from the MAC members. I think there were a few I want to call them bumps but some words that had to come out, something that had to come out on the table. I think that we recognize that there is a range of different personalities on the MAC. I think that was good. I think it was a good discussion. I appreciated being able to talk a little bit about the Tribal meeting and talk about the interest there and have Divina and Hank and Sarah jump in on that. All in all, I thought it was a good meeting. It was a long day, but I thought it went relatively fast because we had a lot of to talk about. I have some things I have to get back to. I have some notes to do that. I will work on that. David is going to get back on to you on a few things. All in all, I appreciate all of you and thank you, Bill, for leading us to a good day.

>> BILL: DR. WEPPNER: I just want to add that Merry Christmas and happy new year. If we don't see each other through the end of the year. Which is just a couple weeks away. Hopefully we will get more snow at least up in the mountains and I know we need it here badly. But again, I would like to thank everybody for all of the participation. And for the public, if you stuck through it to this length, thank you for participating and contribute.

[End of meeting]