

**To:** Ashcroft, Tyler[tashcrof@blm.gov]  
**From:** Esworthy, Nancy  
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[BENMFAQsLandUses FINALPENDINGAPPROVAL.docx](#)

Here's the reorganized version of Land Uses, if you want.  
Nancy

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On Fri, Apr 28, 2017 at 5:30 PM, Ashcroft, Tyler <[tashcrof@blm.gov](mailto:tashcrof@blm.gov)> wrote:

I decided to go ahead and send the land use and monument designation FAQs to the Tribes. They are in sufficient condition for review. Therefore, you do not need to worry about re-organization until we get their feedback.

I have not seen their comments on the visitor information document. It was due today. Hopefully we will have something monday.

On Fri, Apr 28, 2017 at 5:27 PM, Ashcroft, Tyler <[tashcrof@blm.gov](mailto:tashcrof@blm.gov)> wrote:

I don't recall seeing any comments from you. In response to some of you suggested edits, I added comments. Which I apparently did not save correctly. Thanks for the tutorial.

On Fri, Apr 28, 2017 at 5:21 PM, Esworthy, Nancy <[nesworthy@blm.gov](mailto:nesworthy@blm.gov)> wrote:

No, I didn't see any comments from you, Tyler. I just learned that AFTER you type your comment, you must click on the blue "Comment" button underneath. Otherwise, your comment will not be saved (even though the text and edits you type do save automatically). So are you saying that you actually did see comments from me? I can't recall clicking on the blue button.

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On Fri, Apr 28, 2017 at 5:19 PM, Ashcroft, Tyler <[tashcrof@blm.gov](mailto:tashcrof@blm.gov)> wrote:

Your test worked.

I actually have been having the same issues. I responded to some of your comments, but when I closed and then re-opened the document I could not find my notes. Did you see any replies from me?

On Fri, Apr 28, 2017 at 5:01 PM, Esworthy, Nancy <[nesworthy@blm.gov](mailto:nesworthy@blm.gov)> wrote:

Tyler,

Did any of my comments to you on the previous version of the Land Uses and Monument Designation documents come through? I wondered if they hadn't, and that's why you didn't understand what I was doing with the temporary numbering of paragraphs in the Land Uses document. So I checked my own Word file of the document I left for you to review, and it shows only edits, but no comments. I tried looking for those comments using the "See revision history" feature in Google Drive, but that seems to show edits only.

If you haven't been receiving comments, then I am not making them correctly in Google Drive, and I need to see if I can reconstruct anything you may have missed. For example, I explained my suggestion for adding the introductory info about the proclamation in the Land Uses document. I see you accepted that, but you may have been wondering why I just added it. Do you recall that comment at all?

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## **Bears Ears National Monument**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Land Uses**

*On December 28, 2016, President Barack Obama issued a proclamation designating approximately 1.35 million acres of public lands in Utah as the Bears Ears National Monument. The proclamation provides for the care and management of prehistoric, historic, and scientific resources within the monument. The two agencies responsible for land management at the monument are the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The proclamation formally recognizes the area's cultural importance to American Indian tribes and provides for federal land managers to consider integrating tribal knowledge and expertise into management plans. Finally, the proclamation addresses the designation's effect on existing and future land use rights.*

#### **Will American Indian tribes have access for ceremonial and other traditional uses?**

Yes. Tribes will continue to be able to collect plants, firewood, and other traditional materials for noncommercial uses within the national monument. American Indians who are collecting products on BLM-administered lands for ceremonial or other traditional uses can obtain a free use permit from the BLM Monticello Field Office, 365 North Main Street, Monticello, UT 84535 (435) 587-1500.

#### **Is livestock grazing still allowed?**

Yes. Livestock grazing will continue to be managed under existing laws, regulations, and policies followed by the BLM and the USFS.

#### **Does the national monument designation affect water rights?**

Valid existing water rights are unaffected by the national monument designation.

#### **Can I stake a new mining claim or nominate an area for oil and gas leasing?**

Under the monument proclamation, federal lands in the national monument are withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry including mineral leasing. The BLM and the USFS will, however, recognize valid existing rights. Before designation, many areas within the national monument were already closed to leasing or withdrawn from mineral entry. There are no active mining operations or producing oil and gas wells in the national monument. Approximately 2 percent of the national monument is currently leased for oil and gas development.

#### **Does the national monument designation affect fire management?**

The national monument designation will not change fire management activities. All future

management will continue to focus first on public and firefighter safety while taking actions to protect valuable resources. Fuel reduction projects may be used in the national monument to address the risk of wildfire, insect infestation, or disease that would imperil public safety or endanger the objects or resources protected by the national monument designation. Fire management restrictions in Wilderness and WSAs will continue.

**Does the national monument designation impact rights-of-way?**

Nothing in the monument proclamation interferes with continued operation or maintenance of rights-of-way, such as existing powerlines and pipelines. If a new right-of-way is proposed on BLM-managed lands, the agency will evaluate whether the proposal is consistent with the care and management of objects identified in the proclamation, the existing land use plan, and BLM policies. As part of the management planning process, the BLM will evaluate where placement of new rights-of-way is appropriate.

**How does designation of the national monument affect existing special management areas?**

Approximately 57 percent of the federal lands that are now in the national monument were previously managed to protect important resources prior to monument designation. In general, these areas will continue to be managed the same as they were before designation. When the BLM and the USFS prepare a monument management plan, they will evaluate whether changes in management are needed in some of these areas. Any changes to the special management areas will include public involvement. Some of the special management areas are described below.

***Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas***

Approximately 32 percent of the Bears Ears National Monument is managed as Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The USFS administers the 46,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness, which is just north of the Bears Ears formation. In addition, the BLM manages more than 380,000 acres of the national monument as WSAs. WSAs are roadless areas with wilderness characteristics. The BLM is required to manage these areas to preserve their suitability for designation as wilderness until Congress makes a final determination on whether these areas should be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There will be no changes in management of these areas.

***Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Areas***

Approximately 29,000 acres of BLM-administered lands in the monument are managed as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). ACECs are managed for the protection of their outstanding cultural, natural, and scenic values. The national monument also includes the Cliff Dwellers Pasture Research Natural Area (RNA), which is located on USFS lands.

***Special Recreation Management Areas***

Approximately 42 percent of the lands within the national monument are managed by the BLM

as Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs). SRMAs are areas that are managed to protect special recreational opportunities.

**Can I ride my ATV or motorcycle?**

Bears Ears National Monument provides outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation. All roads and trails that were open before the monument designation (approximately 1,800 miles) continue to be open to motorized vehicle use. As part of the management planning process, the travel management plan for the area will be updated. This could result in some changes in motorized vehicle use. Any changes to the travel management plan will include public involvement. Maps showing routes that are open to motorized vehicle use are available at:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/utah/bears-ears-national-monument>  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd513812.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd513812.pdf)

**Can I ride my mountain bike?**

Mountain biking is allowed on all designated motorized vehicle routes in the Bears Ears National Monument.

**Do I need camping permits or climbing permits?**

Under current management, no permits are required for car camping on BLM-administered lands, unless there are more than 15 vehicles or more than 50 people. Backcountry camping permits are required for many of the Cedar Mesa canyons. No permits are required for rock climbing. All commercial guiding and activities, however, require a permit.

**Can I still hunt in the national monument?**

Hunting will continue to be managed by the State of Utah under the same regulations as before designation.

**Can I gather firewood?**

Yes. The proclamation states that the BLM and the USFS must provide access to American Indian tribes for traditional and customary uses, including collection of medicines, berries, other vegetation, forest products, and firewood for personal, noncommercial use. The national monument designation will not change how permits are issued for collection of firewood. The existing Monticello Field Office Resource Management Plan identifies areas that are open for firewood collection. The BLM will continue to issue permits for private and commercial wood collection based on the availability of woodland products and protection of other resource values. In some areas, commercial and private collection of firewood is not allowed.

For more information about firewood collection on BLM-managed lands, see:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/utah/bears-ears-national-monument>

For information about firewood collection on USFS-managed lands, see:  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mantilasal/passes-permits/forestproducts>.

**Can I still get a permit that allows me to outfit or guide others in the national monument?**

Outfitting and guiding will continue to be managed under the same regulations as before designation. Contact the BLM Monticello Field Office about permitting questions at (435) 587-1510.