

To: Smith, Timothy[tsmith@blm.gov]; Michael Herder[mherder@blm.gov]; Marci Todd[m1todd@blm.gov]; Paul Petersen[ppeterse@blm.gov]
From: Evenson, Ronald (Rudy)
Sent: 2017-07-18T17:38:00-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Proposed binder for Secretary Zinke July 2017 visit
Received: 2017-07-19T03:37:57-04:00
[Secretary 7-17 visit binder - Gold Butte.pdf](#)

Tim, this looks excellent. I think it meets the need exactly. Great work! Mike, this is a good model. I would include the 2 monument manager's reports as well in yours.
Marci, please advise if you would like to see anything else in here.

As we said on the call today, I will also be circulating a general "hot issues" report where Tim and Mike can put on their non-Monument-related issues separately.

Rudy Evenson
Acting Chief of Communications
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On Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 9:58 AM, Smith, Timothy <tsmith@blm.gov> wrote:

Not sure if John has shared this with you yet, but I'm comfortable with this for the binder...do you think we need more?

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

From: Asselin, John <jasselin@blm.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 17, 2017 at 12:41 PM
Subject: Proposed binder for Secretary Zinke July 2017 visit
To: Timothy Smith <tsmith@blm.gov>
Cc: Erick Kurkowski <ekurkowski@blm.gov>, Gayle Marrs-Smith <gmarrssm@blm.gov>

Tim
Per the information I received from Rudy on the binder content, attached is a pdf of proposed binder contents (minus the itinerary) for your review and comment.

Thank you

John

John Asselin
Public Affairs Specialist
Bureau of Land Management

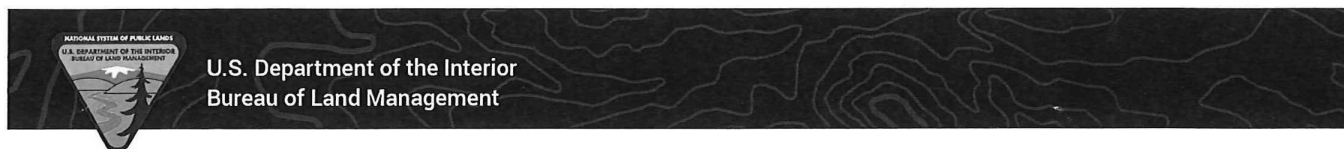
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Tim Smith
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Gold Butte National Monument

Proclamation Date: 12/28/2016		
Total Acres: 292,937	BLM Acres: 285,158	Bureau of Reclamation Acres: 11,779
Proclamation Objects and Values		
Wildlife: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • desert tortoise • relict leopard frog • bighorn sheep Vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • threecorner milkvetch • mokiak milkvetch • sticky wild buckwheat • rosy two-tone beardtongue • sticky ringstem • Las Vegas buckwheat • Las Vegas bearpoppy 		Paleontological: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dinosaur tracks Geological: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devil's Throat Cultural: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rock art • rock shelters • historic mining and ranching
Proclamation Management Prescriptions		
Minerals: All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.		
Livestock Grazing: Livestock grazing has not been permitted in the monument area since 1998 and the Secretary shall not issue any new grazing permits or leases on lands within the monument.		
Lands and Realty: Consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above, nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to preclude the renewal or assignment of, or interfere with the operation, maintenance, replacement, modification, or upgrade within the physical authorization boundary of existing flood control, pipeline, and telecommunications facilities, or other water infrastructure, including wildlife water catchments or water district facilities, that are located within the monument. Except as necessary for the care and management of the objects identified above, no new rights-of-way shall be authorized within the monument.		
Travel Management: Except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes, motorized vehicle use in the monument shall be permitted only on roads designated as open to such use as of the date of this proclamation, unless the Secretary decides to reroute roads for public safety purposes or to enhance protection of the objects identified above. Non-motorized mechanized vehicle use shall be permitted only on roads and trails, consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above.		
Military: Nothing in this proclamation shall preclude low-level overflights of military aircraft, the designation of new units of		

special use airspace, or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the lands reserved by this proclamation consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above. Nothing in this proclamation shall preclude air or ground access to existing or new electronic tracking communications sites associated with the special use airspace and military training routes, consistent with the care and management of such objects.

Wildlife Management:

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Nevada, including its jurisdiction and authority with respect to fish and wildlife management, including hunting and fishing.

Management Planning/Public Involvement:

The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., to provide information and advice regarding development of the land use plan and management of the monument.

For purposes of protecting and restoring the objects identified above, the Secretary, through the BLM, shall prepare and maintain a management plan for the monument and shall provide for maximum public involvement in the development of that plan including, but not limited to, consultation with State, tribal, and local governments.

Tribal/Cultural:

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the rights or jurisdiction of any Indian tribe. The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent permitted by law and in consultation with Indian tribes, ensure the protection of Indian sacred sites and traditional cultural properties in the monument and provide for access by members of Indian tribes for traditional cultural and customary uses, consistent with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996) and Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996 (Indian Sacred Sites).

Existing Special/Administrative Designations

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern:

- Devil's Throat
- Gold Butte Part A
- Gold Butte Part B
- Gold Butte Part C
- Gold Butte Townsite
- Red Rock Springs
- Whiney Pocket

Gold Butte Backcountry Byway: distance 62 miles

Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas:

- Lime Canyon Wilderness - 24,156 acres
- Jumbo Springs Wilderness - 4,631 acres
- Million Hills Wilderness Study Area - 22,604 acres
- Virgin Mountain Instant Study Area - 5,850 acres

Grazing Allotments:

- Mesquite Community (Arizona administered)
- Lime Spring (Arizona administered)

Gold Butte Herd Management Area:

- appropriate management level - 22 to 98 wild burros

Traditional Lifeway Area:

- Virgin Mountains/Gold Butte

Travel Management:

- Route designation completed July 2008



Emergencies if you have cellular phone coverage, dial 911; make sure you leave your name, license plate, location, and phone number with dispatch.

flash floods. Watch out for and gravel, and rock slides. deep sand prepared for road washouts. Be recommended in all other areas. Be wheel drive vehicles are highly by most vehicles. High clearance, four

Vehicles Whitney Pockets is accessible in the form of flash floods. Bring plenty of water. Gold Butte is very

in the form of flash floods. Bring plenty of water. Gold Butte is very

temperatures range from over 100 degrees in summer to below freezing in winter. Flash floods are common. Wear protective clothing and bring plenty of sunscreen, even in the winter.

Let family and friends know where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

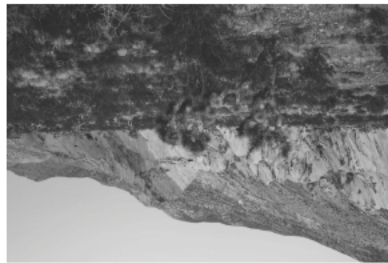
Gold Butte is remote and rugged! There is no cellular phone service. The following will make your trip to Gold Butte safer and more enjoyable:

Be Prepared

Safety Precautions

Rules and Outdoor Ethics

- Drive only on designated routes; this includes mountain bikes.
- Do not collect or harass wildlife.
- Hunting is permitted and managed under the Nevada Department of Wildlife, (702) 486 5127.
- Camping is allowed for a maximum of 14 days in a 30 day period. Use non vegetated areas when camping and follow "leave no trace" principles.
- Do not cut or damage live vegetation, including Joshua trees, for firewood. Bring your own wood for campfires.
- Observe seasonal fire restrictions. Never leave campfires unattended.



Whitney Pockets

* miles from the intersection of State Route 170 & Gold Butte Backcountry Byway

Building foundations and mining equipment for crushing ore are all that are left of the mining boom of the early 1900s at the Gold Butte Townsite. They are a reminder of the rich mining and ranching history of this area.

Gold Butte Townsite - *41 miles
An unusual geologic feature along the main Gold Butte road, Devil's Throat is a large, 100 foot deep sinkhole that has been growing larger from underground water dissolving the minerals in the soil.

Whitney Pockets - *21 miles
The most well known and accessible of the Aztec sandstone formations in the monument, Whitney Pockets has a long history of pre historic and historic occupation. Of note are the rock stores carved into stones by ancient indigenous peoples and structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Features of Interest

This rare member of the poppy family only grows in Southern Nevada on outcrops of gypsum. Their sulfur yellow flowers add to the palette of desert wildflowers in the spring. The soil crusts on top of the gypsum are very delicate and easily damaged.



Las Vegas Bearpoppy

Desert tortoises spend much of the year in burrows away from harsh desert conditions. Please do not collect, touch, or harass them.



The northern portion of the monument is critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise. This area is important for the species' recovery. Desert tortoises spend much of the year in burrows away from harsh desert conditions. Please do not collect, touch, or harass them.

Desert Tortoise

Watch For

Inside the rugged, 300,000 acre Gold Butte National Monument is an extraordinary variety of pre historic, historic, geological, and biological treasures. The landscape reveals the story of human habitation over thousands of years, from the rock stories carved by ancient indigenous people to the remnants of Western mining and ranching heritage. Canyons and intricate rock formations sculpted through the millennia by wind and water offer a stunning backdrop and photographer's dream. Over 300 miles of designated routes provide the public access to a variety of Gold Butte's features.

Welcome to Gold Butte National Monument



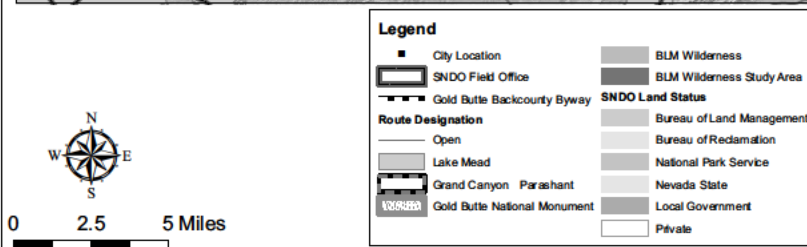
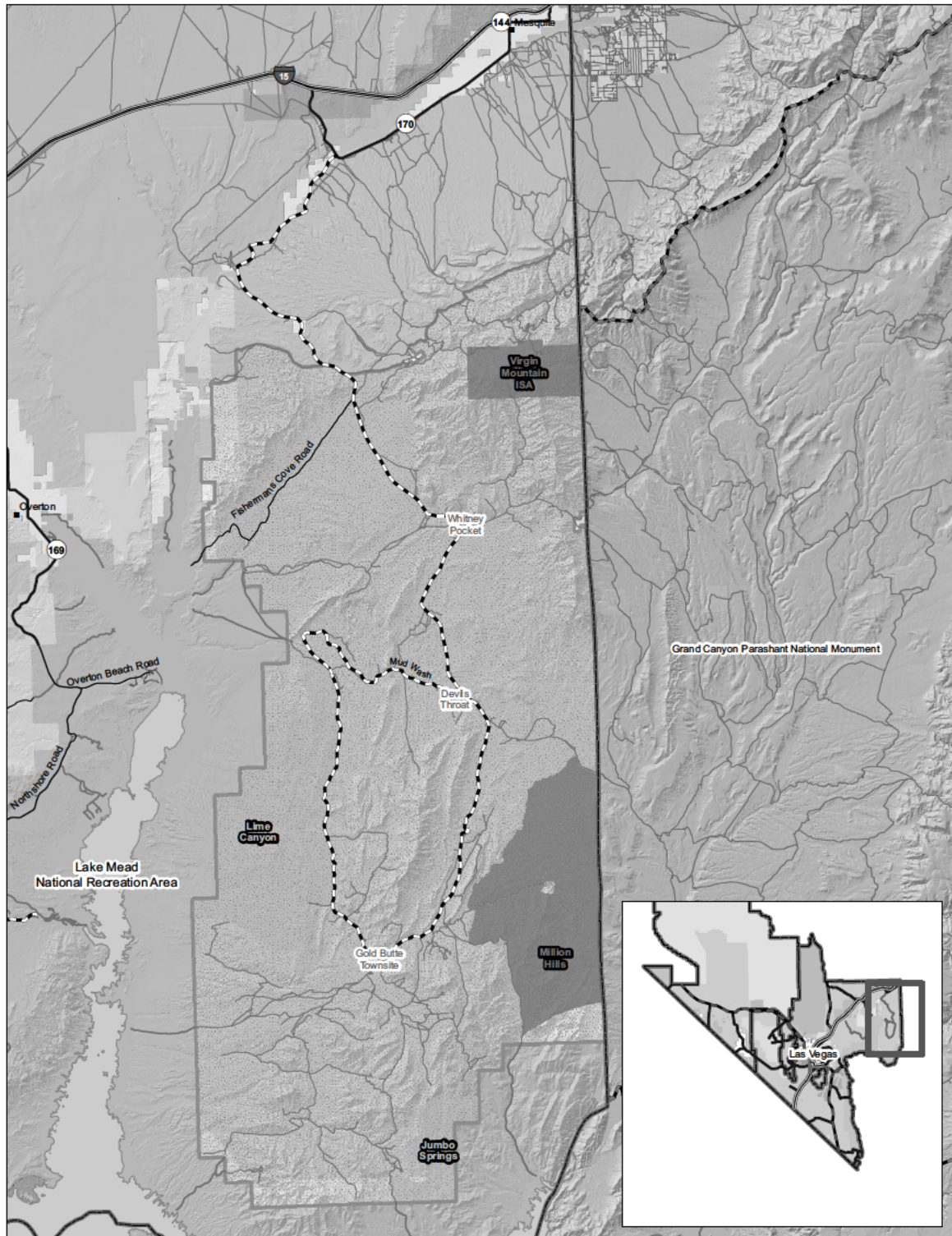
Gold Butte

National Monument



www.blm.gov/site_page/nevada_gold_butte
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Gold Butte National Monument



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DOI-2020-06 00373

Fast Facts and Q&A

Both Designations -- Q&A

What is the effect of the President's proclamations?

The President's two proclamations designate the Bears Ears National Monument and Gold Butte National Monument, comprised entirely of existing federal lands. These designations direct the responsible agencies to manage these areas for the care and management of objects of scientific and historic interest identified by the proclamations. The areas generally may not be disposed of by the United States and are closed to new extractive uses such as mining and oil and gas development, and subject to valid existing rights. The designations preserve current uses of the land, including tribal access and traditional collection of plants and firewood, off-highway vehicle recreation, hunting and fishing, legal grazing, military training operations, and utility corridors.

Site Specific Q&A - Gold Butte National Monument

Gold Butte National Monument

- Nearly 300,000 acres in Clark County, Nevada, currently managed by the BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation
- The monument will be managed by the BLM

What kind of public process took place before this designation was made?

Beginning in 2008, when Representative Shelley Berkley (D-1-NV) first introduced legislation to establish a more than 350,000-acre Gold Butte National Conservation Area, legislation to provide lasting protection for the larger Gold Butte area has been introduced repeatedly. Most recently, in 2015 Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) and Representative Dina Titus (D-1-NV) introduced S. 199 and H.R. 856, the Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act. On a number of occasions, including in a floor speech on April 7, 2016, Senator Reid stated his desire that the President use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Gold Butte area. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and BLM Director Neil Kornze attended a [public meeting](#) hosted by Senator Reid and Representative Titus on February 18, 2015, to hear from the public about protection and conservation of Gold Butte and other areas in Southern Nevada. Many members of the overflow crowd of more than 300 people spoke in support of protecting the Gold Butte area, including representatives from local tribal nations, the travel and tourism industry, local business owners, recreationists, professional and amateur scientists, and state and local elected officials. In 2011, at the request of Senator Reid, then-Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes and Director Kornze (while serving as Senior Advisor to the BLM Director) traveled to the area to witness firsthand its natural and cultural values. During that trip, Deputy Secretary Hayes and Director Kornze held a meeting in Mesquite, Nevada, where they and approximately 50 local citizens, elected officials, and conservation advocates discussed possible protection for the Gold Butte area. Later that year, Deputy Secretary Hayes held a roundtable at the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce where local elected and appointed officials and stakeholders discussed the economic benefits that could be generated by national recognition of Gold Butte and other public lands in the region.

Where is the Gold Butte National Monument?

The Gold Butte National Monument encompasses approximately 285,000 acres of Federal lands currently managed by the BLM and approximately 12,000 acres currently managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (which the proclamation directs for transfer to the BLM under applicable law) approximately 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The total acreage under federal management is 296,937 acres. Approximately 57,000 acres within the boundary are currently managed by the BLM or USBR as Congressionally-designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas, natural lands without roads which provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Another 129,000 acres have been formally proposed as Wilderness by local land managers after completing a wilderness study. The entire monument falls within Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, which are managed for the protection of their outstanding cultural, natural, and scenic values.

What is the effect of the President's proclamation?

The President's proclamation designates federal lands in this area as the Gold Butte National Monument for the care and management of objects of scientific and historic interest and to help ensure that future generations can enjoy these significant lands as they are today. The area generally may not be disposed of by the United States and is closed to new extractive uses such as mining and oil and gas development and subject to valid existing rights, including water rights. The proclamation allows for the operation and maintenance of a small number of existing facilities and infrastructure within the monument, but does not allow new rights of way across the monument unless necessary for the care and management of monument objects.

How do these designations compare to Sen Reid's legislation, both in terms of boundaries and management?

Senator Reid's legislation, S. 199 in the 114th Congress, would have designated a Gold Butte National Conservation Area. The NCA's boundary would extend further north than the monument's boundary, and would have been almost 350,000 acres compared to the monument's nearly 300,000 acres. Like the monument, the NCA's management plan would incorporate the current transportation plan for the area, although the monument proclamation allows more flexibility for trails. Like the monument, the bill would not affect the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife, including fishing and hunting. Like the monument proclamation, the bill establishes an advisory council of local stakeholders. Both the legislation and the monument proclamation allow for military training operations. Both also allow for Native American cultural and religious uses. Unlike the proclamation, the Senator's legislation authorizes a visitor center and field office. Senator Reid's legislation would have also created a number of new wilderness areas that are not established by the monument designation.

How does the designation affect military uses of the land and airspace?

Nothing in the proclamation precludes low-level overflights of military aircraft, designation of new units of special use airspace, or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the lands reserved by the proclamation, consistent with the care and management of the objects to be protected. Additionally, the proclamation allows air or ground access to existing or new electronic tracking communications sites associated with the special use airspace and military training routes, consistent with the care and management of the monument objects.

How does the designation impact public access?

The designation preserves public access, such as for hunting and fishing, which continue to be managed by the State of Nevada. Traditional tribal collection of certain natural materials will still be allowed in the monument, as will access for other cultural uses. Visitors may continue to use motorized vehicles and non-motorized mechanized vehicles (e.g. mountain bikes) on roads and trails designated as open for their use.

How does designation impact access to water district infrastructure or other existing facilities within the monument?

The designation explicitly allows for the use and maintenance of existing flood control, pipeline, and telecommunications facilities, or other water infrastructure including wildlife guzzlers or water district facilities, but stipulates that such uses must be managed in a manner consistent with the care and management of monument objects.

How will the BLM incorporate local input into the monument management plan?

The proclamation requires the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, to prepare and maintain a management plan for the monument. The plan will be developed with maximum public involvement including, but not limited to, consultation with tribal, state, and local governments. As part of that process, the BLM will hold public meetings on Gold Butte National Monument. The proclamation also requires the Secretary to establish an advisory committee to provide information and advice regarding development of the land use plan and management of the monument, to allow for continued participation by local stakeholders in the process.

How does the designation impact off-highway vehicle use?

The designation will not impact current OHV use, but limits motorized vehicle use to roads designated as open as of the date of the proclamation except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes, unless the Secretary decides to reroute them for public safety purposes or to enhance protection of the monument objects. Preserving the current designations honors the hard work and lengthy public process that went into the development of the existing 2008 travel management plan.

How does the designation impact grazing?

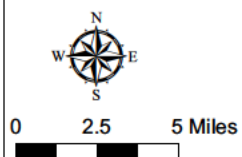
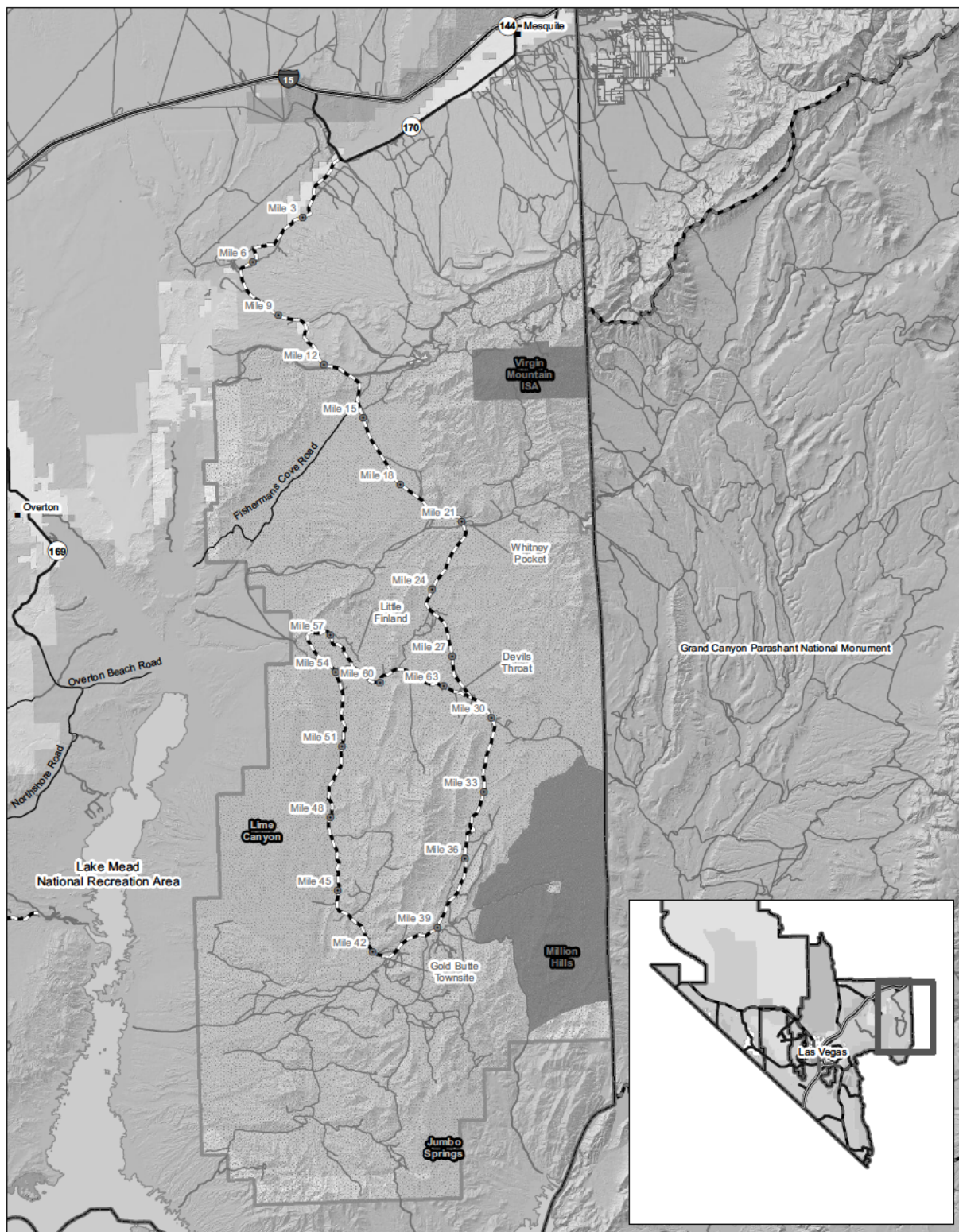
Livestock grazing has not been permitted in the monument area since 1998, and the proclamation does not allow for any new grazing permits or leases within the monument.

Did the Administration push forward on this monument in response, or at least in part, to the showdown at Bunkerville in 2014?

Today's action is in response to longstanding efforts to protect the area's important cultural and natural resources. Legislative efforts to protect the area started in 2002.

###

Gold Butte National Monument



Legend	
■ City Location	BLM Wilderness
⊙ Mile Marker	BLM Wilderness Study Area
▬ SNDO Field Office	SNDO Land Status
▬ Gold Butte Backcountry Byway	Bureau of Land Management
Route Designation	Bureau of Reclamation
▬ Open	National Park Service
▬ Lake Mead	Nevada State
▬ Grand Canyon Parashant	Local Government
▬ Gold Butte National Monument	Private



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

BLM Nevada Gold Butte Outreach Schedule
Re-engagement and Designation

Date	Activity	Information
July 26, 2016	Moapa Town Advisory Board Meeting (Moapa Town)	Gold Butte Re-engagement briefing
Aug. 9, 2016	Mesquite City Council Meeting	Gold Butte Re-engagement briefing
Aug. 10, 2016	Moapa Valley Town Advisory Board Meeting (Overton)	Gold Butte Re-engagement briefing
Aug. 11, 2016	Bunkerville Town Advisory Board Meeting	Gold Butte Re-engagement briefing
Sept. 14, 2016	Gold Butte Roundtable at Mesquite City Hall	Gold Butte Re-engagement feedback meeting with local stakeholders (not part of a city council meeting)
Feb. 9, 2017	Gold Butte National Monument Public Information Forum at Mesquite City Hall	Public information forum to present information and answer questions on the Gold Butte National Monument designation (not part of a city council meeting)
Mar. 29, 2017	Moapa Valley Town Advisory Board	Public information presentation on the Gold Butte National Monument designation
Date TBD	Gold Butte National Monument Public Information Forum at North Las Vegas City Hall	Public information forum to present information and answer questions on the Gold Butte National Monument designation (Originally scheduled for May 25 and postponed)



News Release

Washington, D.C.
For immediate release

Contact: Craig Leff, 202-208-6913
Date: June 17, 2016

BLM Returns to Work in Gold Butte *Director Kornze and Local Leaders Visit Area*

LAS VEGAS – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is moving forward with plans to resume work in southern Nevada’s Gold Butte region. The Gold Butte area contains important habitat for Desert Tortoise and other species, and is home to world-renowned rock art and other ancient cultural sites. The region is also a popular destination for recreation enthusiasts who enjoy hiking, camping and exploring the area’s unique geology.

Due to safety and security concerns, BLM employees have not conducted field work in the Gold Butte area in northeastern Clark County since early 2014. With the support of the local community, BLM officials have determined that the conditions are now right to resume work. BLM archaeologists, law enforcement officers, and local agency leadership have all visited the area over the past month.

BLM Director Neil Kornze and BLM Nevada State Director John Ruhs toured Gold Butte yesterday, along with Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick and Captain James LaRochelle of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

“We had an excellent visit to Gold Butte and we’ll be increasing our presence there in the months ahead,” Director Kornze said. “This area is a real treasure. We look forward to working with our local partners to restart the many important efforts we had underway.”

The group visited the Whitney Pockets area, which is popular with visitors who come to hike and view the singular geologic features, rock art and other cultural resources. Some of the area’s famous red sandstone formations have been impacted by vandals. Nearby, a large Joshua tree had been illegally cut down and left onsite. There was also evidence that cattle have trampled and overgrazed certain areas. The group also explored the famed Falling Man petroglyph site as part of their tour of the broader area. Time will be needed to make a complete assessment of the condition of the Gold Butte region.

Kornze praised the BLM Southern Nevada District Office staff for their patience while field work was suspended and for their ongoing collaboration with local partners to plan and develop

projects focused on the restoration of key areas and the protection of ancient rock art sites and other irreplaceable cultural resources.

Some of the immediate project work that is envisioned includes assessing the damage to cultural heritage sites; partnering with the National Park Service on critical repairs to communications infrastructure; coordinating with Clark County on road maintenance; and establishing a route numbering system on designated roads to help visitors map their location and destinations. The BLM will continue collaborating with the nearby communities to develop plans for future projects that address the spread of noxious weeds and reducing the potential threat of wildland fire through hazardous fuels reduction projects.

“BLM employees in southern Nevada have been hard at work developing restoration plans for some of Gold Butte’s extraordinary resources,” said BLM-Nevada State Director John Ruhs. “We look forward to continuing this important work with our partners and creating a positive future for this incredible area.”

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.

-BLM-



Southern Nevada District Office
FOR RELEASE: February 3, 2017
CONTACT: John Asselin (702) 515-5046; jasselin@blm.gov

Gold Butte Public Information Forum to be held Feb. 9 in Mesquite

Las Vegas – The Bureau of Land Management Southern Nevada District Office, in association with representatives from Clark County, the City of Mesquite and Virgin Valley Water District, will host a Gold Butte National Monument Public Information Forum on February 9 in Mesquite. The public information forum is 5 to 7 p.m. in the Mesquite City Council Chambers, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027. The event is open to the public.

The purpose of the forum is to provide information to the public about the newly designated Gold Butte National Monument. A short presentation from BLM will be followed by a question and answer period. Representatives from other organizations will be on hand to answer questions on how their activities fit in with the new national monument.

-BLM-



Southern Nevada District Office

FOR RELEASE: May 8, 2017

CONTACT: John Asselin (702) 515-5046; jasselin@blm.gov

Gold Butte Public Information Forum to be held May 25 in North Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS – Do you have questions about the newly designated Gold Butte National Monument? The Bureau of Land Management Southern Nevada District Office will host a Gold Butte National Monument Public Information Forum on May 25 in North Las Vegas. The public information forum is from 6 to 8 p.m. in the North Las Vegas City Council Chambers, 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North, North Las Vegas, Nevada, 89030. The event is open to the public.

The purpose of the forum is to provide information to the public about the newly designated Gold Butte National Monument. A short presentation from BLM will be followed by a question and answer period.

Gold Butte National Monument covers nearly 300,000 acres of remote and rugged desert landscape in southeastern Nevada, where dramatically chiseled red sandstone, twisting canyons, and tree-clad mountains punctuate desolate stretches of the Mojave Desert. The brightly hued sandstone provides a stunning canvas for the area's famously beautiful rock art, and the desert provides critical habitat. More information on Gold Butte National Monument is available at <https://www.blm.gov/gold-butte>.

-BLM-



Southern Nevada District Office

FOR RELEASE: May 11, 2017

CONTACT: Stephen Clutter (775) 861-6629; sclutter@blm.gov

Bureau postpones planned public meeting while national monument review is underway

LAS VEGAS – On April 26, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13792, which directed a Department of the Interior review of some national monuments, including southern Nevada's Gold Butte National Monument. In light of this review, the Bureau of Land Management has postponed the Gold Butte National Monument Public Information Forum scheduled for May 25 in North Las Vegas.

The BLM looks forward to supporting the President's priorities and direction provided by the Secretary of the Interior regarding this review, which includes the first-ever formal public comment period on monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

The BLM manages 19 national monuments subject to review under the executive order. These monuments, including [Gold Butte National Monument](#), span approximately 10.7 million acres in nine western states. More information on this review and the public comment period is available on the [Department of the Interior website](#).

-BLM-

EARLY ALERT

This is an internal document only; it is not for external distribution.

Date: August 17, 2016

To: WO DOI/BLM Officials

From: BLM Nevada State Director

Through: WO External Affairs Group Manager

Subject: Friends of Gold Butte Damage Report

What: Second Report on Damage to Gold Butte unveiled at press conference

Who: Southern Nevada District

When: August 18, 2016

Senator Harry Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus will host a press conference to release the Friends of Gold Butte Second Report on Damage to Gold Butte on August 18 at Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas. A coalition of community leaders, activists and organizations working toward permanent protection of Gold Butte are expected to attend.

The report documents damage to cultural, historic and natural resources in the area from September 2015 through April 2016.

Contact: Steve Clutter, Communications Chief, (775) 861-6629

Summary of Damage in Gold Butte Report from Friends of Gold Butte

Background

Due to adverse circumstances, the BLM and all federal land management agencies halted on-the-ground activities in the Gold Butte area from April 2014 to June 2016. In the absence of a land management presence, Friends of Gold Butte (FoGB) has witnessed an increasing level of damage near historic and cultural sites as well as disturbance to sensitive desert areas that are habitat for threatened and endangered species.

This report compiles significant damage observed at Gold Butte over time with numerous observations made during the period of September 2015-July 2016. Previously reported damage is cited to illustrate long-lasting affects to cultural and natural resources.

Content

The report documents Damage to Historic Resources, Natural Resources, Signs, and Fencing; Vehicle Incursions; and Illegal Range-Land Development.

Damage to Historic Resources, Natural Resources, Signs, and Fencing

Civilian Conservation Corps Storage Cave – Damage to stone walls and graffiti is present inside cave. Vehicle incursion and damage to vegetation is also present in the area.

Cabin Canyon Corral – Most of upright poles were removed by campers and used as firewood.

Garden Spring Windmill and Corral – Planks were likely looted for construction lumber. Parts of the windmill are missing and been damaged by bullet holes. Extensive vehicle incursions are evident in the corral.

Gold Butte Town Site – Graffiti is painted on rocks.

Vandalism in Petroglyph Areas – Graffiti and bullet holes mark numerous petroglyph sites.

Joshua Trees – A large Joshua tree was chopped down and left by a camper at the First Rock camp area.

Human Waste – After most busy weekends, much of the Whitney Pocket camping area is littered with toilet paper and human waste.

Recreational Vehicle Discharge – At Whitney Pocket, FoGB members witnessed at least six campers dumping gray water from their recreational vehicle holding tanks during a busy weekend. One camper dumped black water with toilet paper from their RV holding tanks and what appears to be motor oil.

Red Bluff Spring Fence Damage – Fences on both ends of the spring area have been cut and taken down, and vehicles are being driven through the spring area.

Red Rock Springs Fence Damage – Red Rocks Spring cable and post fence was damaged likely by a vehicle backing into one of the posts and pushing it over.

Hartman Tank Fence Damage – Storm floods have damaged the fence at the north (upstream) end of the fenced area allowing livestock to enter the protected area. The previously protected riparian area has been heavily damaged by illegal grazing, cattle feces, and cattle trails.

Horse Spring Fence Damage – The fence has been cut near the stream and elsewhere, a salt block has been placed to encourage cattle and at least eight cows and five feral burros reside in the area.

St. Thomas Gap Sign Removal – On Gold Butte Road southbound, the St. Thomas Gap road sign has been removed.

Lime Canyon Wilderness Sign Removal – The sign was burned and removed after October 2015.

BLM Route Signs Removal – Carsonite signs have been moved, removed, and broken. Intentional removal of the signs not only indicates illegal trespass, it also prompts route confusion for the responsible user and results in unintentional illegal travel.

Vandalism to Signs – Throughout the Gold Butte area, signs are routinely vandalized by people shooting holes in them.

Vehicle Incursions

Whitney Pocket Campsite Incursion – Near one of the Whitney Pocket campsites, a recently disturbed area now looks like a legal roadway.

Gold Butte Byway Diversion – On the Red Bluff Spring Road portion of the Gold Butte Byway, the road washed out at a cattle guard during a storm. Drivers have forged a route around the washout until the road can be repaired.

Kohta Circus Incursion – Kohta Circus area has had several major vehicle incursions since November 2015, opening two paths into the closed area.

Trespassed Route – OHV users have opened a closed road and have used it and open washes to drive to the 21 Goats/Sheep Panel. The old closed road continues and goes through a Las Vegas Bearpoppy restoration area.

Rock Cabin Wash Incursion – The wash now looks like a legal road and is heavily traveled by OHVs coming up out of Mesquite.

Gold Butte Road – Vehicle incursions off this main road are not uncommon where drivers simply head off into the desert.

Black Butte Road Incursions – An intrusion of two or more vehicles was noted on the Black Butte Road past Falling Man parking area. These are gypsum hills with an unusual cryptobiotic-gypsum soil environment now damaged from a network of illegal OHV trails.

Illegal Rangeland Development

Three water systems have been mapped along the northern and western edge of the Virgin Mountains. They are the Dud and Seep Springs Water System, the Great Eastern Water System, and the South Key West Mine Water System. To connect the water tanks and troughs throughout these systems required a total of 22.5 miles of illegal trenching into virgin desert terrain that is currently managed as an ACEC to protect habitat for the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise.

Conclusion: Protecting and Restoring Gold Butte

Gold Butte needs protection. As this report shows, there is an increasing amount of damage in Gold Butte. There is a persistent and urgent threat as our natural and cultural history is being erased from this land. Restoration is an individual and community responsibility. It is our duty to be stewards of our public lands and special places, but in order to do that effectively and sustainably; we need to also ensure they are protected in perpetuity. Protecting Gold Butte as a National Monument is a vital next step to restoring Gold Butte.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office
And The
Friends of Gold Butte

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office (BLM-LVFO) and Friends of Gold Butte, (FGB).

I. BACKGROUND

The BLM-LVFO has management responsibility over the diverse resources present within Gold Butte, a 350,000-acre complex of 7 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in the Southern Nevada District. The BLM-LVFO is responsible for developing collaborative programs and projects that enhance services to the public, improve stewardship of BLM managed lands, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of management activities.

The Friends of Gold Butte (FGB) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that has been actively involved in land management issues in the Gold Butte area since 1993. FGB advocates for permanent federal land protection the Gold Butte. The FGB engages volunteers to implement BLM-approved stewardship projects in Gold Butte, including trash removal, native seed collection and planting, invasive plant removal, road monitoring and maintenance, erasure of illegal vehicle intrusions, removal of illegal, open-ended, hollow PVC mine markers, and documentation and reporting of changes to natural, historic, and cultural sites.

In the past, FGB has worked with BLM-LVFO staff in the field to collect and plant native vegetation and to install post and cable parking areas. Currently, FGB is reporting vandalism and illegal vehicle intrusions observed in Gold Butte, is taking down illegal, open-ended PVC mine markers, and maintaining consistent communication to BLM-LVFO of its activities in the Gold Butte area.

The BLM-LVFO and FGB wish to continue their relationship under a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreement.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to document a desire on the part of the signatories to cooperate on programs and projects of mutual interest that generally fall under the umbrella of resource protection and enhancement, public outreach, and education in the Gold Butte ACECs. This MOU is entered into between the BLM-LVFO and the FGB as a joint effort to protect, monitor, and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Gold Butte ACECs, increase public awareness about Gold Butte, increase educational and interpretive resources for the Gold Butte area, enhance and restore areas that have experienced human-caused or natural adverse effects, and enhance the quality of recreational opportunities in Gold Butte in a way that also protects the landscape. Activities include 1) collecting information and monitoring for disturbances within the Gold Butte ACECs, 2) conducting educational outreach in the field and in the community, and 3) conducting restoration/protection projects. The main objective of this MOU is to improve

and protect conditions in the Gold Butte ACECs.

This agreement sets forth the responsibilities of BLM-LVFO and FGB. Entering into this MOU will allow the BLM-LVFO to utilize the expertise and resources of FGB to enhance management of the Gold Butte ACECs. The MOU allows for certain projects, educational field trips, public services, and other assistance to be performed by FGB in cooperation with BLM-LVFO.

III. AUTHORITY

The Bureau of Land Management enters into this MOU under the authority contained in: Section 307(b), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, PL 94-579 (90 Stat. 2763, 43 U.S.C. 1732 and 1737) as delegated in BLM Manual 1203. FGB enters into this MOU under the authority contained in the bylaws of the Friends of Gold Butte.

IV. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- A. All projects and public education field trips proposed and conducted by FGB on Gold Butte ACECs shall be consistent with the BLM Management decisions and policies. BLM-LVFO has decision-making authority on all proposed activities in the Gold Butte ACECs. FGB and BLM-LVFO will develop an Annual Work Plan each year to set forth work priorities based on available resources. Agreements for coordinating specific projects and activities, including public education field trips, may be verbal or written.
- B. The parties recognize that this MOU cannot and does not grant FGB exclusive rights to any public lands or management decisions. FGB will not undertake BLM regulatory, law enforcement, fire-fighting, or policy-making activities. Volunteers will not be assigned hazardous tasks without prior certification or training.
- C. This MOU is dependent upon the Parties' availability of adequate staffing and funds to plan, supervise and implement activities authorized under this MOU.
- D. FGB staff and volunteers working on BLM projects are authorized for coverage under a Group Volunteer Services Agreement (Form OF-301A) when their name is on the list attached to the form OF-301A in effect. Names may be added or removed from said list by either the BLM or FGB, and will take effect upon notification and verbal or written acceptance of the other party of said addition or removal.
- E. All improvements completed and equipment furnished by BLM and used under this MOU will be and will remain the property of the United States.
- F. This MOU allows FGB members, and members of FGB events to participate in BLM approved projects as BLM volunteers, subject to BLM policies as outlined in the BLM Volunteer Manual 1114.

V. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ACTIVITY

- A. Friends of Gold Butte will:
 - 1. Designate a point person to work as a liaison with the BLM.
 - 2. Develop a yearly work plan to be reviewed and approved by BLM-LVFO.
 - 3. Provide a quarterly schedule of public education field trips.
 - 4. Provide a description of the principles and guidelines for visiting cultural, historic, and sensitive resource sites shared with trip participants.
 - 5. Provide a source of volunteer labor to work closely with the BLM to implement on-the-ground projects. Project work may include, but is not limited to: cultural and

natural resource monitoring, road monitoring and restoration, sign installation, graffiti removal, erasure of illegal roads, knock down of illegal mine markers, native vegetation seed collection and planting, invasive plant removal, providing interpretive or educational services, leading field trips, and trash cleanup.

6. Expand community outreach to generate awareness of Gold Butte issues, conservation values, and stewardship opportunities.
7. Provide BLM with bi-annual reports that document work completed on approved projects.
8. Inform and encourage member volunteers to attend BLM-sponsored trainings as appropriate.
9. Develop new partnerships for meeting BLM mission.
10. Provide a cooperative framework to work together to support awareness and participation in the implementation of BLM's Management Plan for the Gold Butte area.

B. The BLM-LVFO will:

1. Designate a BLM staff person to serve as a point of contact for FGB.
2. Collaborate and timely review and approve a yearly work plan from FGB.
3. Identify BLM staff to participate in FGB hosted projects and public education field trips as necessary.
4. Provide recommended job descriptions for volunteers
5. Provide training
6. Be responsible for the volunteer documentation. Ensure volunteers obtain the correct Volunteer Agreement Forms (Forms); review the completed Forms and ensure they are completed properly; and obtain BLM line-manager signature of the completed Forms. Ensure that Forms are completed prior to FGB doing any work for BLM. Ensure that each Form is correctly terminated at the end of the project by completing the back side of the Form. The Form ensures that volunteers are covered for injuries during the volunteer project.
7. Provide funding and other relevant assistance for projects.
8. Issue permits and authorization for project implementation

VI. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

- A. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Any information furnished to the individual agencies under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).
- B. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This instrument in no way restricts the BLM or the FGB from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- C. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION/TERMINATION. This MOU is effective June 3, 2016 and will continue for a period of five years unless it is terminated by both Parties. This MOU may be amended upon written request of either the BLM or FGB and the subsequent written concurrence of the other(s). Either the BLM or the FGB may

withdraw from this MOU with a 60-day written notice to the other(s).

- D. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES. For activities covered under this MOU, the BLM and the FGB and their respective agencies will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.
- E. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the BLM or FGB to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the Partners will require execution of separate agreements and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.
- F. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY. This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.
- G. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, the cooperator certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the cooperator are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this instrument.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT


 Las Vegas Field Office Manager

7/6/2016
 Date

FRIENDS OF GOLD BUTTE


 Executive Director

7/6/2016
 Date

History of Grazing – Gold Butte

9/3/53 – Clarence Webb of St. George, Utah transferred his ‘grazing privileges’ to David Bundy. This amounted to 1026 AUMs. He did this because he acquired ‘grazing privileges’ in Arizona and no longer wanted to run cattle in Nevada.

7/1/54 – BLM issues a 10-year grazing permit to David Bundy. 1026 AUMs and a maximum of 95 cattle on the Bunkerville Allotment.

7/9/56 – BLM issues a delinquency notice to David Bundy for his 1956/57 grazing fees.

1/14/66 – David Bundy transfers his ‘grazing privileges’ to Merl Wittwer. 626 AUMs.

10/7/73 – David Bundy designates his son as representative to their cattle operation.

8/73 – Bundy’s in cattle trespass.

3/77 – Bundy’s in cattle trespass.

8/29/75 – BLM denies Bundy request to graze 500 cattle on the Bunkerville allotment. Insufficient forage.

9/22/76 – BLM reminds Bundy of their responsibility to maintain fences on the allotment. This had been an on-going issue for several years.

1980-1989 – Many instances of Cliven Bundy being in trespass, delinquency on grazing fees and not maintaining fences on the Bunkerville Allotment.

1/31/1992 – Full Force and Effect Decision sent to Bundy limiting grazing on the Bunkerville Allotment due to FWS listing the desert tortoise as an endangered species.

1/28/1993 – Another Full Force and Effect Decision is sent to Bundy.

The rest of our administrative records through current day show Bundy in trespass and delinquent on grazing fees.

September 1, 1959

NARRATIVE REPORT GOLD BUTTE UNIT

Prepared by A. W. Magleby

The Gold Butte Unit is located between the Overton Bay (Lake Mead) and the Arizona-Nevada State Boundary. It contains a total of 302,677 acres of public land of which 86,149 acres is jointly administered by the B.L.M. and the N.P.S. (Lake Mead National Recreation Area).

The livestock history of this unit is long and varied. This area was used jointly with the Arizona Strip by Mormon settlers in southern Utah and Moapa and Virgin Valleys with cattle. The first cattle were grazed in this area during the 1850's. As the population increased cattle increased. Soon after this time sheep from Utah drifted into this area during the winter period. At one time real "Range Wars" between sheep and cattle men were frequent.

After the Nevada-Arizona State Boundary was established certain stockmen confined their operations to each state. Several thousand head of cattle used the Gold Butte area. Soon after 1900 two bands of sheep "lambd" in this area for several years.

Year long grazing with cattle has been and is at the present time recognized. The elevation is extremely variable commencing at 1200 feet on the shore of Lake Mead to 6,000 feet on several of the higher peaks. The vegetation is likewise variable corresponding to the elevation of the land. The vegetation is primarily "annual". There is however in the higher elevations many species of perennial grasses and browse plants.

This unit was adjudicated on a water base. Adequate water for proper use is available. There are four individual cattle operators in the unit, namely: Gold Butte Cattle Co., Ed Yates, Allen Nay and Robert and Flora Schneider.

The present owners of the Gold Butte Allotment have initiated an extensive range improvement program principally management fences and water developments.

2. 16-14-1 (plate - last section)
3. 16-2511



704C East 13th Street, Suite 568
Whitefish, MT 59937
406-438-1918

FOIA Officer
Office of the Secretary
US Department of the Interior
E-Mail: osfoia@ios.doi.gov

June 12, 2017

FOIA REQUEST

Dear Records Request Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I request access to and copies of the following records:

- All notes, maps or other documents used to create or cited within the interim report outlined in Section 2 of Executive Order 13792, the Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act, dated April 26, 2017 (see attached).
- All correspondence involving any staff member within the Office of the Secretary since and including April 26, 2017 concerning the interim report outlined in Section 2 of Executive Order 13792, the Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act, dated April 26, 2017.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).¹

Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding" of government operations and is not "primarily in the commercial

¹ See, e.g., *McClellan Ecological Seepage Situation v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

interest of the requester.”² The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the federal government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public’s business.

There is considerable public interest in the President’s Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act as evidenced by the nearly 150,000 comments received regarding the Executive Order on regulations.gov as of June 8, 2017. One estimate revealed that comments in support of the Bears Ears National Monument outnumbered those against the monument nearly 9 to 1 and this request seeks, in part, to establish what weight was given to public support for the monument during the review process.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Western Values Project does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Western Values Project’s financial interest. Western Values Project’s mission is to give a voice to Western values in the national conversation about resource development and public lands conservation, a space too often dominated by industry lobbyists and their government allies. Western Values Project will use the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Western Values Project will also make materials it gathers available on our public website <http://www.westernvaluesproject.org/>.

Accordingly, Western Values Project qualifies for a fee waiver.

Conclusion

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org.

If you have questions or need additional information from me, please feel free to call me at (406) 438-1918.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. If any documents are withheld based on the Agency’s interpretation of any exemption, we request that you provide an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), *cert. denied*, 415 U.S. 977 (1974). Specifically, this *Vaughn* index should describe withheld documents with enough specificity as to determine whether the material is exempt under the act and must describe each document or portion withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)

Chris Saeger
Executive Director
Western Values Project

**Department of the Interior
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
REQUEST CONTROL FORM**

FOIA Request Control Number

OS-2017-00733

Requester's Name

Lisa Lambert

Action Office(s)

OS**Curr nt Date**

6/19/17

Du Date

7/05/17

OS FOIA Contact (MIB 7328)

Cindy Sweeney

Instructions to Action Office. To meet the statutory twenty (20) workday response requirement, your search for responsive documents should be completed and dated no later than the "Document Search Due Date" shown above.

SEARCH METHODS

SEARCHER Name	OFFICE LOCATION What Office	MANUAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if done	ELECTRONIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if done	BOTH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if both	TERMS USED electronic search, list terms	RECORD TYPE e.g., Calendar, Ltr., Rpt	DOCS FOUND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if found
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		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
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Note: If space is insufficient to document your search efforts, please reproduce this page for additional needed space.

THIS SEARCH WAS ADEQUATE AND REASONABLY CALCULATED TO UNCOVER ALL RESPONSIVE RECORDS
BECAUSE _____.

Please note that if you do not provide the OS with the information requested on this form at this time, and an appeal challenging the sufficiency of the search is filed, you may then be required to reconstruct or duplicate your entire search efforts. In addition, you may be asked to certify that the search done was reasonably conducted to locate all responsive records.

Search Coordinated By (Signature)	Please Print Your Name Here	Date
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TOTAL SEARCH TIME EXPENDED**Please indicate time to within ¼ hour**

Clerical Search Time
Managerial Search Time

Professional Search Time
Any other Costs (Identify)