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Please review for any major issues. Need to send to Staff Sec.

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## **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (BENM) Modification**

### **Summary**

- The President has exercised his authority under the Antiquities Act (Act) to reduce the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) in order to ensure that the Federal land set aside is the smallest area compatible with the care and management of the important objects of historic or scientific interest.
- Those Federal lands not included in the new monuments remain in Federal ownership and will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under applicable laws.

### **Background**

- In the twenty years since designation of the GSENM, the objects identified have been more thoroughly examined and mapped, which offered the opportunity to examine the significance of the objects previously identified and to determine the proper size of the reservation necessary to protect those resources.
- The areas within the modified monument boundaries will be known as the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits and Escalante Canyons units of the monument. This will include the highest concentration of fossil resources, important landscape features such as the Grand Staircase, Upper Paria Canyon System, Kaiparowits Plateau, Escalante Natural Bridge, Upper Escalante Canyons, East Kaibab Monocline (Cockscomb), Grosvenor Arch, historic resources like Old Paria Townsite, and Dance Hall Rock, as well as relict plant communities such as No Mans Mesa.

### **Boundaries and Acreage**

- The original GSENM monument boundary included approximately 1,865,837 acres of Federal land, is reduced by approximately 861,974 acres. The remainder encompasses approximately 1,003,863 acres of federal land in the three units as provided below.

#### **Grand Staircase Unit**

#### **Kaiparowits Unit**

#### **Escalante Canyons Unit**

(b)(5) DPP



\*\*Non-federal lands are within the external boundary are not part of the national monument but are included for reference purposes.

### **Proclamation Changes**

#### **Protects Grazing:**

- Provides that current authorizations for livestock grazing – including the levels of grazing authorized – would not be affected or curtailed because of the monument designation.
- Provides that the Secretary may allow for active, science based vegetation treatment, particularly for pinyon-juniper removal, which will improve grazing management. This will allow for a responsive outcome-based grazing approach for permittees within the monument, allowing greater flexibility in livestock management decisions.

#### **Opens Roads:**

- Clarifies that clarifies that pending preparation of a transportation plan for the national monument, the Secretary may allow motorized and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use on roads and trails that were in use prior to BENM designation and allow maintenance of the roads.