

From: Bowman, Randal
To: [Mallory, Sheila](#)
Subject: Re: Next round of comments available for coding
Date: Monday, July 17, 2017 4:52:44 PM

Thank you, but no way to predict that would happen. My intent then and now was to reduce the workload for everyone else, and I'm still making some progress there.

On Mon, Jul 17, 2017 at 5:51 PM, Mallory, Sheila <smallory@blm.gov> wrote:

I feel bad for you....

On Mon, Jul 17, 2017 at 3:05 PM, Bowman, Randal <randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

The last round of comments from regs.gov is still tied up with system mistakes. However, there is some coding to do from the first two rounds.

You may recall that I thought I had captured large numbers of similar comments in the first two rounds of coding by using search terms, thus greatly reducing the number that needed to be coded individually. However, there was a glitch in the system that was not apparent until later. As most of you know, searching for exact terms on computers are generally done by enclosing the term in quotation marks, which is what I had done. In this case, unfortunately, the quotation marks on my - and likely your - keyboard are what in computer terms are called "curley" quotation marks, while DiscoverText was programmed to only accept "straight" quotation marks.

That there was a problem in searching by terms became apparent to me in the 3rd set of comments, where a search turned up mostly comments that did not contain the full term I was searching for. I reported this and their engineer eventually figured out the problem and reprogrammed the system to accept the "curley" quotation marks.

However, to ensure the integrity of the counting and coding, I went back and deleted the buckets, datasets and coding that I had created on the first two sets of comments, as I could not be sure they were accurate. I have now gone back through the original "Bears Ears" comments, and re-coded all that could be done with the original and some new search terms. I also revised the coding to reflect our current coding practices, and believe I have moved all of the comments with attachments and post cards to the side, where they will be counted later. If you do encounter either, please mark them as "uncodable".

The dataset is ready for coding. Just log on as usual, accept the request and start. Thanks to all of you for your efforts to date, and we are on the home stretch for this effort.

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