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**From:** Mali, Peter  
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**Subject:** Briefing Materials for ASLM Mtgs. Tomorrow (Caldwell Canyon Mine & Nat'l. Monument Review)  
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[National Monument Review Briefing Paper 7.26.17 CoS edits.docx](#)  
[Caldwell Canyon ASLM BP 072617 CoS edits \(3\).docx](#)  
[Caldwell Attach 1 \(3\).pdf](#)  
[Caldwell Attach 2 \(6\).pdf](#)  
[Caldwell Attach 3 \(3\).pdf](#)

Gene:

Attached please find the requested briefing materials:

- Briefing paper re: National Monument review
- Briefing paper re: proposed Caldwell Canyon (Idaho) phosphate mine (plus 3 related maps)

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Have a good evening,

Peter

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**INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY – LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

**DATE:** July 26, 2017

**FROM:** Michael D. Nedd, Acting Director – Bureau of Land Management

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Caldwell Canyon Mine and Reclamation Plan, Caribou County, Idaho

**BACKGROUND**

In October 2016, P4 Production, LLC (P4), a subsidiary of Monsanto Company, submitted a mine and reclamation plan application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pocatello Field Office (PFO) for the proposed Caldwell Canyon Phosphate Mine. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that BLM prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess impacts that the proposed mine may have on the human environment. The BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS on March 22, 2017, and proceeded with public scoping, the first step in preparing the EIS. The BLM will analyze environmental impacts of the proposed mining and reclamation operations as well as reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Appropriate mitigation measures of potential impacts will be formulated in conjunction with the proponent.

The proposed 1,530-acre mine would be located in a sparsely populated, mountainous area in southeast Idaho, approximately 13 air miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho (population 2,975). Surface ownership of the affected lands—located along Schmidt Ridge and some adjacent lands in Dry Valley—consists of various Federal, state, and private entities. Because of its authorities for Federal mineral leasing and mine regulation, the BLM will serve as the lead agency in preparing the EIS. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Idaho Department of Lands, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be cooperating agencies. The BLM will also coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) during the EIS process because a small amount of National Forest System land lies within the proposed project area.

Operations at Caldwell Canyon would consist of open-pit mining on existing Federal phosphate leases (IDI-02, IDI-014080, and IDI-013738). The mine would also include a State of Idaho Mineral Lease (E-07959). P4 is requesting modifications to increase the size of some of these leases, contending that such increases are necessary to accommodate certain mine features and to ensure full ore recovery and utilization of the non-renewable phosphate mineral resource along Schmidt Ridge. Issuing these lease modifications is a discretionary decision that the BLM will analyze in the EIS.

The mine and reclamation plan for Caldwell Canyon includes development of two open-pit mines: the North Pit and the South Pit, both located on Schmidt Ridge. Mining operations would be conducted over an estimated 40-year period using a surface mine/pit panel mining method. Mining would be initiated in the mid-point of the South Pit and proceed southward. Approximately six million tons of initial overburden materials would be hauled from the ridge and placed as backfill in a nearby empty mine pit that is part of the older, inactive Dry Valley Mine. All other overburden generated from each new Caldwell Canyon mine panel would be used to backfill a previously mined panel of the Caldwell Canyon mine.

P4's application proposes to transport the mined ore by haul truck via a new, two-mile-long road linking the mine pit areas to an ore stockpile east of the mine. From the stockpile, ore would be loaded into trains and transported by existing rail line to P4's elemental phosphorus processing plant in Soda Springs, Idaho.

Mining below the ground water table would occur within the southern portion of the Caldwell Canyon South Pit during years 6 through 8 of operations, and the northern portion during years 14 through 16. In these locations,

P4 would install ground water interception wells to draw down the water table to an elevation below the planned pit bottom. This would reduce the amount of ground water flowing into the pit, thereby enabling mining to occur. The water would be stored in water management ponds, and the sequestered water would not be allowed to leave the mine site other than by infiltration or evaporation.

All overburden and waste material would be backfilled into mine pit panels, and reclaimed using an earthen cap to reduce the potential for impacts to ground water due to infiltration of precipitation and snow melt through the backfilled mine pits. The cap would also facilitate re-vegetation to support productive post-mining land uses.

Most major facilities supporting the mine (e.g., ore stockpile, water management infrastructure, offices, shop, and storage facilities) would be located in the East Caldwell Area in Dry Valley. Additional facilities located at the Caldwell Canyon mine site would include service and haul roads, water pipelines, water management ponds, sediment control ponds, infiltration galleries, growth media stockpiles, and other facilities.

## DISCUSSION

Key issues to be analyzed in the EIS include:

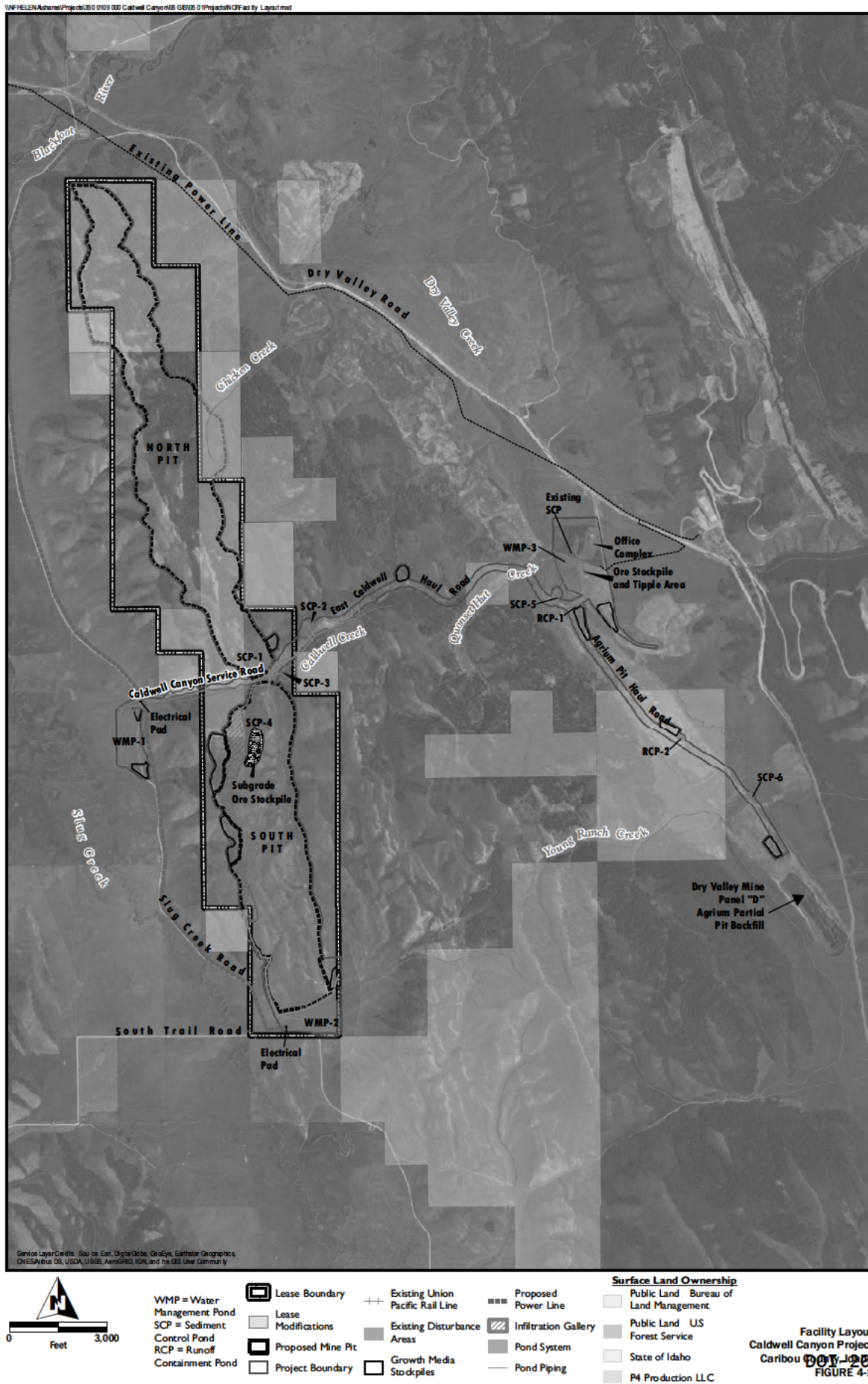
- How to develop a mine plan that minimizes environmental effects caused by surface disturbance, including effects to wildlife habitat.
- Mechanisms to prevent contaminants in mine waste rock, mainly selenium, from affecting water quality.
- Off-project impacts or benefits related to hauling Caldwell Canyon mine waste rock for use as backfill in the empty pit at the nearby inactive Dry Valley Mine.
- Next steps regarding mitigation and General Habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG).
- Whether to approve seven lease modifications that are part of the proposed project.
- The mine would allow continued employment of Monsanto workers, contractors, and vendors (375 full-time employees and 395 full- and part-time contract employees) when mining of the Blackfoot Bridge mine (Monsanto's current mine) is completed. Annual economic benefits from the Caldwell Canyon mine include an estimated \$44 million in payroll and benefits, \$74 million in purchases, and \$3 million in Federal and state royalties.
- The proposed mine would ultimately replace Monsanto's current mine, which provides raw materials for Monsanto's elemental phosphorus plant in Soda Springs, Idaho. Monsanto uses this phosphorus to manufacture Round-Up® herbicides, which form the basis of the corporation's \$13.5 billion multi-national "Roundup Ready®" genetically modified agricultural seed business.

## NEXT STEPS

Background environmental studies for the project are mostly complete. The NOI for the project published in the *Federal Register* on March 22, 2017. Public scoping for the EIS, which the BLM began immediately after publication of the NOI, has been completed. The BLM anticipates issuing the Draft EIS in the winter of 2018.

## ATTACHMENTS

- 1 – Location Map
- 2 – Facility Layout Map
- 3 – Caldwell Rail Route Map



**INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY – LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

**DATE:** July 26, 2017

**FROM:** Michael D. Nedd, Acting Director – Bureau of Land Management

**SUBJECT:** BLM Actions Associated with the National Monument Review

This memo provides an update on actions taken by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) pursuant to Executive Order 13792, “Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act,” dated April 26, 2017.

**KEY FACTS**

*Stakeholder Positions:* Executive Order 13792 and the resulting review of National Monuments has received substantial public interest. Over 1.46 million public comments were recorded through the Regulations.gov portal. Comments are still under review, however, and the total may be much higher (potentially exceeding two million comments). July 10th was the deadline for submission of public comments related to the review, and BLM staff continue to review the comments received.

Local and State government representatives from across the United States have expressed interest in the review. Members of Congress, State governments, national organizations, and local groups have expressed a range of opinions. While some comments demonstrate support for rescinding the National Monument designations, decreasing monument size, and/or making minor adjustments to Monument boundaries, the majority of comments focus on maintaining current National Monument designations and/or increasing the size of designations.

*Public Lands Affected:* Eighteen National Monuments—managed either wholly or in part by BLM—are included in the review, totaling more than 10 million acres. The BLM co-manages three National Monuments with the U.S. Forest Service (Bears Ears (Utah), Berryessa Snow Mountain (California), and Sand to Snow (California)), and two with the National Park Service (Craters of the Moon (Idaho) and Grand Canyon-Parashant (Arizona)). The Secretary of the Interior recently announced that Canyons of the Ancients (Colorado), Craters of the Moon (Idaho), and Upper Missouri River Breaks (Montana) are no longer under review, leaving 15 BLM-managed or co-managed National Monuments under review.

**BACKGROUND**

Under Executive Order 13792, the Department of the Interior (DOI) initiated a review of National Monuments designated under the Antiquities Act since January 1, 1996, and that

exceed 100,000 acres. The review included a public comment period, Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Sessions, leadership site visits, and the collection of data associated with each National Monument.

## **DISCUSSION**

The BLM continues to assist with the National Monument review. BLM provided responses to the data call for all 18 Monuments. For co-managed units, BLM collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service on each request, though each agency submitting their respective individual companion documents. The BLM monument review team continues to work with DOI to address a suite of questions for each National Monument under review. BLM is also conducting briefings, supporting leadership site visits, responding to follow-up requests, and has provided a team of BLM staff to complete the review of public comments.

The BLM Washington Office, in coordination with BLM State, District, and Field Offices, has completed its review of 14 DOI-produced economic reports. The reviewed reports are for the following National Monuments: Bears Ears, Grand Canyon-Parashant, Grand Staircase-Escalante (Utah), Cascade-Siskiyou (Oregon), Sonoran Desert (Arizona), Ironwood Forest (Arizona), Canyons of the Ancients, Carrizo Plain (California), Mojave Trails (California), Sand to Snow (California), Gold Butte (Nevada), Basin and Range (Nevada), Vermilion Cliffs (Arizona), Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (New Mexico), and Rio Grande del Norte (New Mexico) National Monuments. BLM is in the process of reviewing the DOI-produced economic reports for Craters of the Moon, Berryessa Snow Mountain, and Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monuments.

## **NEXT STEPS**

BLM will continue to provide information as requested and to support the public comment review. DOI is expected to develop a final report including recommendations for the President.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 - National Monument review timeline

Attachment 2 – BLM-managed or co-managed National Monuments being initially reviewed pursuant to criteria in Executive Order 13792

### ATTACHMENT 1 - NATIONAL MONUMENT REVIEW TIMELINE

This table outlines dates of importance for the National Monument review:

Date	Item/Event
April 26th, 2017 (Wednesday)	<u><b>Executive Order 13792</b></u> - Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act
April 28, 2017 (Friday)	<u><b>Executive Order 13795</b></u> - Implementing An America-First Offshore Energy Strategy
May 5th, 2017 (Friday)	<u><b>Interior Department Releases List of Monuments Under Review</b></u> , Announces First-Ever Formal Public Comment Period for Antiquities Act Monuments
May 11th, 2017 (Thursday)	<u><b>Federal Register Notice: DOI-2017-0002</b></u> - Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996; Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment Released
May 12th, 2017 (Friday)	<u><b>Public Comment Period</b></u> - Review of Certain National Monuments established Since 1996 opens on regulations.gov
May 12th, 2017 (Friday)	<b>BLM Monument Manager Notification</b> - BLM Assistant Director for the National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships notified BLM employees of data call regarding National Monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.
May 17th, 2017 (Wednesday)	<b>Deadline for Information from BLM Utah</b> - Information on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument due to WO-400
May 25th, 2017 (Thursday)	<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Session</b> Hilton DoubleTree Lloyd Center 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, OR 97232, (In conjunction with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Conference)
May 26th, 2017 (Friday)	<b>Bears Ears National Monument Comment Deadline</b> - To ensure consideration, written comments from the public relating to the Bears Ears National Monument must be submitted before May 26, 2017.

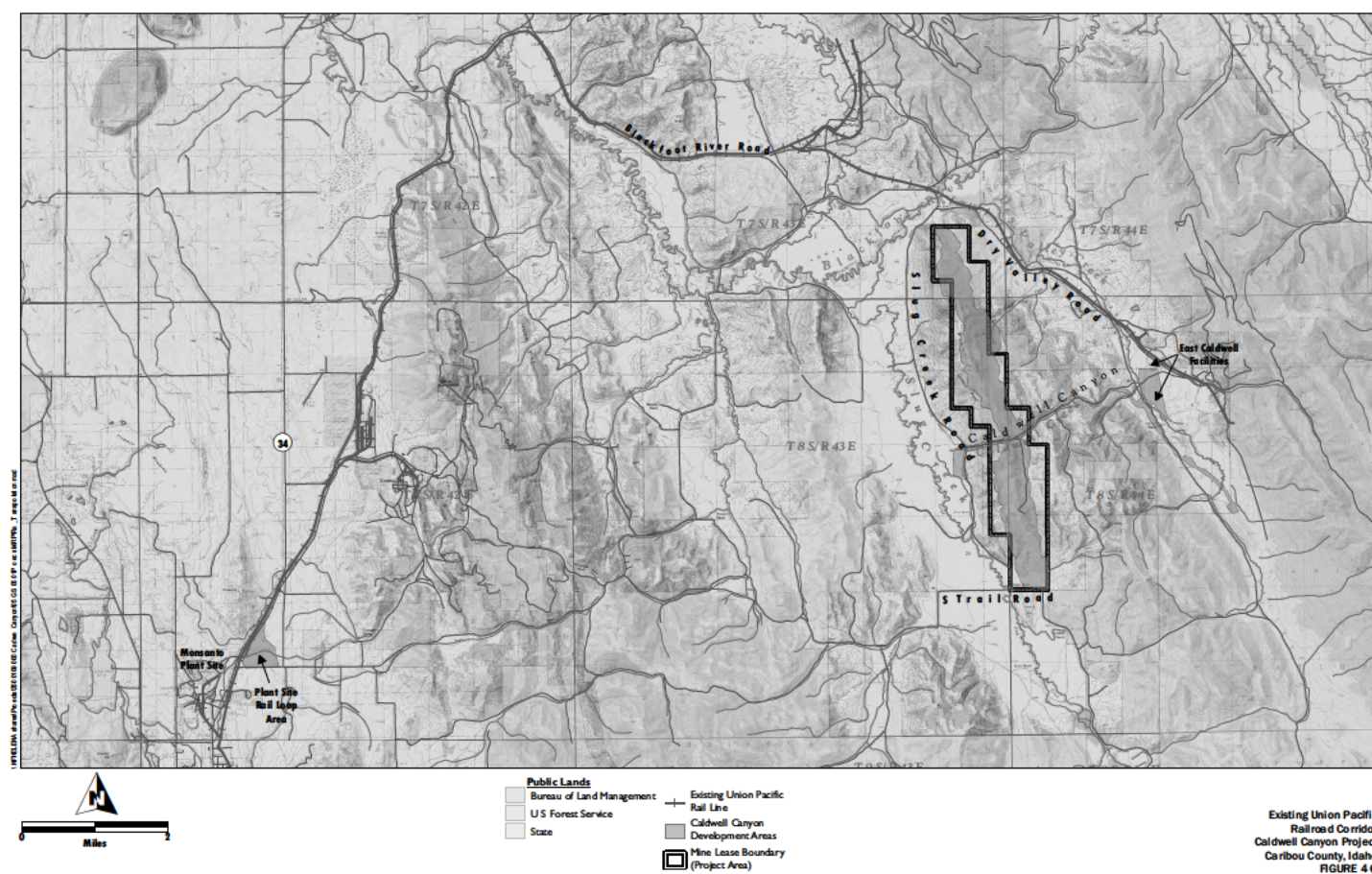
May 30th, 2017 (Tuesday)	<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Session</b> Northern Hotel, 19 North Broadway, Billings, MT 59101, (406) 867-6767
June 1st, 2017 (Thursday)	<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Session</b> Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004, (602) 262-6225
June 2nd, 2017 (Friday)	<b>Deadline for Information from all other States</b> - Information on all non-Utah National Monuments is due to WO-400.
June 10th, 2017 (Saturday)	<b>Review Interim Report Approximate Deadline</b> - “Within 45 days of the date of [Executive Order 13792], the Secretary shall provide an interim report to the President, through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, summarizing the findings of the review described in subsection (a) of this section with respect to Proclamation 9558 of December 28, 2016 (Establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument), and such other designations as the Secretary determines to be appropriate for inclusion in the interim report.”
June 12, 2017 (Monday)	<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Listening Session</b> Mohegan Sun, 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard, Uncasville, CT 06382, (In conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference)
July 10th, 2017 (Monday)	<b>Comment Deadline for all other National Monuments</b> - Written comments relating to all National Monuments, other than Bears Ears National Monument (Comments were due before May 26th), must be submitted before July 10, 2017.
August 24, 2017 (Thursday)	<b>Review Report Approximate Deadline</b> - “Within 120 days of the date of [Executive Order 13792], the Secretary shall provide a final report to the President, through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, summarizing the findings of the review described in subsection (a) of this section. The final report shall include recommendations for such Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law as the Secretary may consider appropriate to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.”

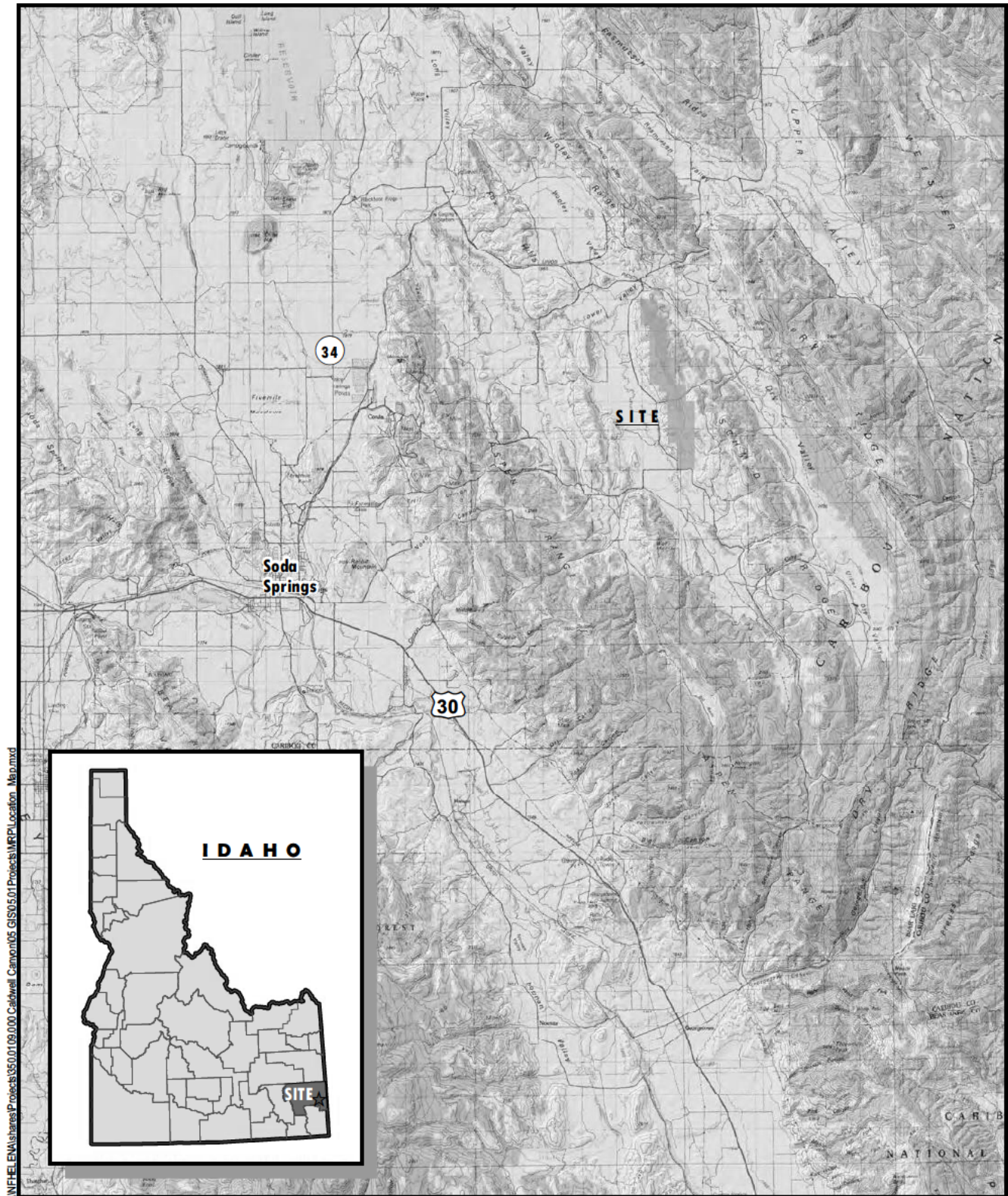


**ATTACHMENT 2 –  
BLM MANAGED OR CO-MANAGED NATIONAL MONUMENTS BEING INITIALLY  
REVIEWED PURSUANT TO CRITERIA IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13792**

Please note: this table includes the National Monuments no longer under review.

<b>Monument</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Year(s)</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Basin and Range	Nevada	2015	703,585
Bears Ears (BLM and USFS)	Utah	2016	1,353,000
Berryessa Snow Mountain (BLM and USFS)	California	2015	330,780
Canyons of the Ancients	Colorado	2000	175,160
Carrizo Plain	California	2001	204,107
Cascade-Siskiyou	Oregon	2000/2017	100,000
Craters of the Moon (BLM and USPS)	Idaho	1924/2000	737,525
Gold Butte	Nevada	2016	296,937
Grand Canyon-Parashant (BLM and USPS)	Arizona	2000	1,014,000
Grand Staircase-Escalante	Utah	1996	1,700,000
Ironwood Forest	Arizona	2000	128,917
Mojave Trails	California	2016	1,600,000
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks	New Mexico	2014	496,330
Rio Grande del Norte	New Mexico	2013	242,555
Sand to Snow (BLM and USFS)	California	2016	154,000
Sonoran Desert	Arizona	2001	486,149
Upper Missouri River Breaks	Montana	2001	377,346
Vermilion Cliffs	Arizona	2000	279,568





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**NewFields**

■ Caldwell Canyon  
Mine Lease Area

Location Map  
Caldwell Canyon Project  
Caribou County, Idaho  
**FIGURE 1**  
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