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**United States Department of the Interior**  
**DAILY ELECTRONIC BRIEFING SUMMARY FOR SECRETARY ZINKE**  
**May 10, 2017**

**DAILY ELECTRONIC BRIEFING SUMMARY FOR SECRETARY ZINKE**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2017**

**FROM:** Christine Bauserman, 202-706-9330

**OVERVIEW:**

Today you are meeting the Kane and Garfield county commissioners, local legislators, staff, and the BLM front-line manager, Ed Roberson, while driving, hiking and coptering the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Breakfast begins with the Kane County Water Conservancy District in Kanab, Utah then onto Grand Staircase-Escalante N.M. You will drive in the N.M. with the Kane and Garfield Commissioners, walk on the Kaiparowits Plateau and end with a helicopter tour. A media chat is followed by dinner and then onward to San Diego.

**Today you have one briefing:**

**08:00 - 09:00 am Kane and Garfield County Commissioners**  
**End of transmission: Talking points**  
**Letter from Jim Cason**

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**SUBJECT: Kane and Garfield County Commissioners**

**TIME: 8 - 9:30 pm**

**FROM:** Edwin Roberson, State Director – Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah  
 POC: Mike Richardson, BLM-Utah Communications Director, (801)539-4020

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**I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Breakfast to hear local county viewpoints on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM), general county issues, and water conservancy district issues.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Kane and Garfield Counties primary concerns are likely to be:

**Access** – the counties feel that GSENM has restricted access by reducing the number of open roads;

**Grazing** – the counties feel that GSENM has reduced grazing Animal Unit Months (AUM) and restricted permittees from improving their allotments;

**Job Loss** – the counties feel that the creation of GSENM reduced potential high-paying logging and mining jobs; and

**Law Enforcement/Search & Rescue** – the counties feel that they must expend resources on law enforcement and search and rescue efforts and contend that they receive limited financial compensation from the federal government for doing so.

**III. DISCUSSION**

**Access**

- The Travel Management Plan (TMP) was developed through a public process, subsequently adjudicated and confirmed by the court to be valid.
- There is ongoing R.S. 2477 litigation with Kane/Garfield Counties over approximately 1,500 roads in the GSENM and adjacent Kanab Field Office; the Monument Management Plan states that the BLM will recognize R.S. 2477 rights-of-way once adjudicated.
- Approximately 47 percent of GSENM is Wilderness Study Area (WSA); many ranchers/residents believe that access restrictions are a result of the monument designation, when in fact the restrictions are dictated by WSA management guidelines.

**Grazing**

- At designation, GSENM had 106,645 total AUMs and 77,400 active AUMs; a 1999 planning action reduced those numbers to 106,202 total AUMs and 76,957 active AUMs, where they have stayed for 18 years--contrary to what some have come to believe.
- Average actual use over 20 years is 41,000 AUMs. The number has been as high as 63,000 AUMs, and as low as 18,000 AUMs. The amount of precipitation and the resultant forage levels drive the number of AUMs available each year.
- Nearly 30,000 acres of vegetation treatments have been completed in the GSENM; 21,000 additional
- acres of proposed projects are in the planning phase.



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**Job Loss**

- The Presidential proclamation withdrew GSENM from future mineral extraction but recognized valid existing rights of leaseholders; however, all coal leases that existed at the time of designation were relinquished.
- Currently, there are five oil wells still in production on the Monument.
- While counties feel that that Monument designation forced closure of the Escalante saw mill; there is little harvestable lumber on the Monument (a little more than 1,000 acres of ponderosa). The mill harvested trees from the surrounding Dixie National Forest.
- GSENM is an economic driver for adjacent communities. At the time of designation, there were 35 special recreation permit holders; today, that number exceeds 110 businesses operating on the Monument.
- Monument visitor centers are located in the surrounding communities to encourage visitors to stop, shop, and stay. Additionally, the Monument Management Plan encourages tourism in local communities by purposely limiting the number of developed amenities (e.g., campgrounds) within GSENM.

**Law Enforcement/Search & Rescue**

- While the counties expend substantial funding on search and rescue operations; they do receive Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) payments to help offset these expenses.
- Monument personnel and BLM law enforcement officers routinely assist with search and rescue operations.
- BLM has a law enforcement services contract with Kane County (\$34K this year); efforts to negotiate a contract with Garfield County are still underway; the main area of disagreement is the cost of the contract; additionally, the Garfield County Sheriff has been reluctant to work with BLM law enforcement.

**IV. ATTACHMENTS**

Note: Attachments are in briefing book.

1. Garfield County Commissioners
2. Kane County Commissioners



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**TALKING POINTS FOR THE SECRETARY**

**FROM:** Laura Rigas, Communications Director, DOI

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**TOPLINE**

- God gave me two ears and one mouth so I'm here to do a lot of listening and learning and hopefully talking just enough to ask the right questions.
- I'm here, directed by the President, to learn about the monuments, the historic and ecological significance, and make a determination.
- Nothing is predetermined. I come to this process with fresh eyes.
- Nobody loves public lands more than me. You can love them as much, but not more.

**Talking Points**

- This Administration and Congress have heard from states and local leaders that, in some cases, the designations of monuments may have resulted in lost jobs, reduced wages, and residents moving away. In the case of significant land planning, we feel that public input should be considered.
- That's why the President has asked for a review of large the monuments designated in the last 20 years, to see what changes and improvements can be made, and to give states and local communities a meaningful voice in this process.
- This policy is consistent with President Trump's promise to rural Americans to give them a voice and make sure their voices are heard.
- The President believes, like I do and many of my neighbors in Western States, that the Federal government can be a good neighbor, can protect areas of cultural and ecological importance, and that we can use federal lands for economic development – just as Teddy Roosevelt envisioned.
- The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President the authority to declare “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest” on federal lands.
- Concerned about potential federal overreach, Antiquities Act authors specified the scope of the authority was to designate the “smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.”

**What the Executive Order does:**

- This Executive Order restores trust between local communities and Washington and roots out abuses of power by previous administrations.
- This Executive Order puts America and the Department of the Interior back on track to manage our federal lands in accordance to traditional “multiple-use” philosophy by directing the Secretary



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of the Department of the Interior to make recommendations to the President on whether a monument should be rescinded, resized in order to better manage our federal lands.

And - This Executive Order gives rural communities across America a voice and restores land use planning by directing the Secretary of the Interior to consult and coordinate with the Governors of States affected by monument designations or other relevant officials of affected State, Tribal, and local governments.

**What it does NOT do:**

- This Executive Order does NOT strip any monument of a designation.
- Does not sell or transfer federal lands
- This Executive Order does NOT loosen any environmental or conservation regulations on any land or marine areas.



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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

**MAY 05 2017**

Ms. Jacqueline Pata  
Executive Director  
National Congress of American Indians  
1516 P Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Pata:

*JACKIE,*

As part of our ongoing dialogue, I am writing to make you aware that we were deeply disturbed by media mischaracterizations of Secretary Ryan Zinke's comments delivered at the National Tribal Energy Summit earlier this week. The Secretary, several Department of the Interior (Department) staff members, and I have already had conversations with several tribal leaders this week. I write to you today to let you know that we hear Indian Country's concerns, and want to set the record straight on where this Administration and Department stand on protecting and strengthening sovereignty.

As a former member of Congress and now head of the Department, the Secretary supports tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty, and believes the Federal Government should meet its trust responsibilities.

At the Summit, the Secretary made broad comments that referred to significant but sensitive moments in our Nation's history of tribal relations. He wanted to convey that he understands the continuing impacts of policies from the past and is dedicated to improving the conditions in Indian Country as the Trustee. He even emphasized that "if the Department is not value added, we should get out of the way."

At this time there are no plans to alter the Department's current management of our trust responsibilities. Without a doubt, there are many options for improvement as we work together, all of which will require detailed thought and consultation with Tribes interested in exercising a greater degree of self-governance and sovereignty.

We welcome dialogue regarding new strategies for improving our role in supporting sovereignty and providing services to Indian Country and encourage the continued involvement of tribal leaders in this important discussion. The Secretary and I look forward to continuing to work with tribal communities and welcome future discussions with tribal leaders to protect and strengthen sovereignty.

Thank you for your partnership. We look forward to the ongoing dialogue on these and many other important issues.

Sincerely,

James Cason  
Delegated Authority of the Deputy Secretary