

To: Aaron Moody[aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Kevin Haugrud[jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov]
From: Jorjani, Daniel
Sent: 2017-11-30T15:19:45-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: DRAFT -- Monuments Talking Points and Myth vs. Fact
Received: 2017-11-30T15:20:32-05:00
[TALKING POINTS FOR MONUMENT REVIEW UPDATED.docx](#)
[FACT VS FICTION -- Antiquities Act and Monument Review 2017.docx](#)

Any edits?

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

From: **Rigas, Laura** <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 3:17 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT -- Monuments Talking Points and Myth vs. Fact
To: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Wynn, Todd" <todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, John Tanner <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>, John Bockmier <john_bockmier@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, "Williams, Timothy" <timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>, "Chambers, Micah" <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>

Sorry, all. I was using the wrong version for the talkers...
Attached is the one Heather and Russ have cleared. Any edits from others?
We will send a final tomorrow am in PDF for you to send around to stakeholders.
Thanks,
L

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897 7022 cell
@Interior

On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 2:50 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

My edits in track changes.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 2:45 PM, Wynn, Todd <todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

This is looking great and will be incredibly helpful for our allies. Nothing to add. Please let me know when it is finished and I can share.

On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 2:26 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

I'm sending my version in a few if you want to work off mine.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 2:11 PM, Rigas, Laura <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi all --

Attached please find the talking points and myth vs. fact sheet for the Monument Review. Please note that they are at their max word length (to keep them on 2 and 1 pages, respectively), so let me know what should come out if you are adding.

Also, they do not include the Utah-specific information, which will be announced on Monday.

This is a great backgrounder for the groups who will be part of the stakeholder call tomorrow as well as any other friends you deem appropriate.

Let me know by COB tonight if you have any edits as we need to start sending them around tomorrow. Please do NOT share this version yet.

Thank you,

L

Laura Keehner Rigas

Communications Director

U.S. Department of the Interior

(202) 897 7022 cell

@Interior

--

Todd M. Wynn

Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Desk: (202) 208 6649

Cell: (202) 897-7269

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

TALKING POINTS FOR ANTIQUITIES ACT/MONUMENT REVIEW

Correcting Past Overreach

Increasing Public Access

Giving Local Communities a Voice by Restoring Traditional Uses

Continuing Protection Where Warranted

Topline Message:

- These monument modifications will continue to protect objects and prioritize public access, infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance, traditional use, tribal cultural use, and hunting and fishing rights.

Five Key Points:

- *Corrects Past Overreach*
 - The President is righting past overreach. The Act requires that only objects of significance are designated, within the smallest area compatible, and we are going to follow the law.
- *Prioritizes Infrastructure Upgrades*
 - The Trump Administration will remove restrictions that impede needed infrastructure improvements, such as upgrading restrooms, visitor centers, and trails, all of which serve to protect the objects in question.
- *Increases Public Access*
 - The Trump Administration is increasing the public access that has been restricted by monument designations. Monument designations should be used to protect, not prevent.
- *Restores Trust and Gives Local Communities a Voice by Restoring Traditional Uses*
 - The Trump Administration is making sure local communities have a voice by restoring traditional “multiple use” activities on these lands.
 - This will increase economic competitiveness, especially in rural communities, by allowing grazing, commercial fishing, logging, and in some cases, mineral development.
- *Continues Protection Where Warranted*
 - The Trump Administration is continuing to protect public land, including keeping parts of monuments to protect objects of significance within the smallest areas compatible.
 - The Trump Administration is *not* going to drill in public parks
 - The Trump Administration is *not* going to sell public lands
 - The Trump Administration *will* protect objects in the “smallest area compatible” with the proper care of the objects to be protected.

Additional Messaging:***Righting Past Overreach, since past Presidents have not followed the law***

- The Antiquities Act requires that objects be of significance, the area reserved to protect the objects is the smallest area compatible, and that monuments be designated on federal land only.
- “Objects of significance” have been misinterpreted to include:
 - Landscape areas, biodiversity (Cascade Siskiyou), “viewsheds” (Katahdin Woods and Waters), World War II desert bombing craters (Organ Mountains Desert Peaks) and “remoteness” (Basin and Range National Monument); and
 - Have been selected only to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to designate areas.
- Smallest area compatible:
 - The first monument designated under the act was Devils Tower at almost 1,200. Several monuments designated since 1996 have been millions of acres.
 - President Obama established or expanded monuments on more than 550 million acres of land and water, more than any other President.
- On federal land:
 - Monument boundaries often encompass or are adjacent to private land, and in the case of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, the expansion contained 38% private land within the external boundary.

Prioritize Infrastructure Improvements

- It is common for monument designations to prevent construction of future roads and other facilities, making the land inaccessible for use.
- Infrastructure enhancements enrich the people’s experience on our public lands far more than a designation written and signed in Washington, D.C.

Increasing public access that has been restricted by monument designations

- Advocates often aim for a monument’s eventual designation as a National Park by Congress, and National Parks do not allow hunting and can restrict motorized access.
 - Many National Parks were first designated as National Monuments. Examples are Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Glacier Bay, Grand Canyon, Great Sand Dunes, Joshua Tree, Petrified Forest, Saguaro, and Zion.
- Roads closures
 - Restrictions on vegetative management and maintenance activities have led to poorly maintained roads and even closures, for example in Cascade Siskiyou and Rio Grande Del Norte. Roads have also been intentionally been closed as part of management plans in order to protect objects.

Restoring the local voice by allowing the traditional uses conducted on the land prior to designation to occur.

- Monument designations have put land “off limits” for traditional multiple-uses like ranching, timber harvest, fishing, resource development, infrastructure upgrades, and motorized recreation.
- Designating too much land for a national monument is harmful to the local tax base via the elimination of grazing, timber and mineral leases, as well as the elimination of hunting and fishing access.
- Monuments should not be designated to prevent rather than protect.
 - For example, subpoenaed emails and a Congressional investigation showed that Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) was designated to stop a Coal project.

Continuing to protect public land

- These lands are already federal which therefore carry protection or have protective land designations.
- GSENM has over 800,000 of Wilderness Study Areas and Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) has almost 450,000 of Wilderness Study Areas or Wilderness.
- The National Environmental Protection Act and the Archeological Protection Act are just two of the many environmental laws passed after 1906 Antiquities Act that offer increased land protections.

Background on the Antiquities Act:

- The Antiquities Act calls for the President to designate objects such as “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest.
- The Act mandates that the limits of the parcels of land reserved as National Monuments “shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected”, and be designated on federal land.
- Despite this clear directive, objects have been extended to include landscape areas, biodiversity, view sheds, and 'smallest area' has become the exception and not the rule.
- Objects have oftentimes been selected only to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to designate areas under protective designations.
- Monument boundaries often encompass or are adjacent to private land, and in one case a monument expansion contained 38% private land within the external boundary.
- The most controversial monuments were designated or expanded in the waning days of a presidency after partisan efforts to designate the land stalled in Congress. This is a clear violation of the will of the People and overuse of executive power.
- Presidents have reduced the size of monuments around 19 times in the past. The most significant reduction was in 1915 under President Woodrow Wilson, when he halved Mount Olympus National Monument (it has since become a National Park).
- On April 26, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13792, entitled “Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act.”

- President Trump's executive order limited the review to monuments designated after January 1, 1996 and over 100,000 acres in size, or monuments that the Secretary deems to have been created without adequate public input.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit an interim report on Bears Ears National Monument within 45 days, which was delivered to the White House on June 10, 2017.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit a report on all other monuments under review within 120 days, August 24, 2017.

Background on the Monument Review Process:

- The Secretary opened up of a formal comment period for the review. This is the first time EVER that a formal comment period was open on regulations.gov for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.
- Secretary Zinke has visited eight national monument sites in six states (Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine Monument, Katahdin Woods and Waters, Cascade Siskyou, Organ Mountains Desert Peaks, Gold Butte, and Basin and Range). He's held dozens of meetings with Tribal, local and state government officials, local stakeholders, and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations. The Secretary met with people and organizations who represent all sides of the issue. (PS - He traveled to Giant Sequoia and Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monuments before the review)
- Interior also established a formal public comment period for the monument review. This is the first time ever a formal comment period occurred for Antiquities Act-designated National Monuments.

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: *No president has shrunk a monument.*

False: Monuments have been shrunk at least ten times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include Pres. John F. Kennedy removing 2882 acres from Bandelier, Presidents Taft, Wilson, Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: *The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.*

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the sale or transfer of public lands. Under the Antiquities Act, the monuments are designated on already federal land. Therefore, if any monument is rescinded or shrunk, the land would remain federally owned and be managed by one of the land management agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Park Service.

Myth: *Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects at risk.*

False: This is not true. Whether these objects are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, traditional BLM land, or other federal land, it is illegal to remove or disrupt the objects without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: *The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.*

False: No national parks are under review. Of the 27 national monuments that are under review, only 2 are managed by the National Park Service and neither of them were recommended for rescission or boundary adjustments. The Secretary has continually committed he is against the sale/transfer/privatization of public lands, especially national parks. While two of the monuments are managed by the NPS - much like historic sites, national recreation areas, and national seashores - none of them are National Parks.

Myth: *The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.*

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally had more than 60 meetings with hundreds of local stakeholders. Individuals and organizations represented all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: *Tribal Nations were not consulted.*

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Younger, Cally" <cyounger@blm.gov>
Date: December 7, 2017 at 3:35:25 PM EST
To: "Moody, Aaron" <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Monument NOIs

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Cally Younger | Counsel
Office of the Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
Direct: 202-208-3027
Cell: 202-313-8394

[insert billing code]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[insert Agency docket number]

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Bears Ears

National Monument Indian Creek Unit and associated Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), and Presidential Proclamation *[insert number]*, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Canyon Country District Office, Moab, Utah, intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek Unit and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The RMP will replace portions of the existing Monticello Field Office Record of Decision and Approved RMP.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RMP with associated EIS. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/utah>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must

be received prior to 15 days after the last public meeting. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to by any of the following methods:

- Website: *[insert full URL]*
- Mail: 365 North Main P.O. Box 7 Monticello, UT 84535

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Canyon Country District Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lance Porter, District Manager, telephone (435) 259-2100; address 365 North Main P.O. Box 7 Monticello, UT 84535; email BLM_UT_Indian_Creek@blm.gov. Contact Mr. Porter to add your name to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Canyon Country District Office, Moab, Utah, intends to prepare a RMP with an associated EIS for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek Unit, announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in San Juan County, Utah and encompasses approximately 71,896 acres of public land.

On December 4, 2017, President Donald Trump signed Proclamation [insert number] modifying the Bears Ears National Monument in order to ensure that the Federal land set aside is the smallest area compatible with the care and management of those objects of scientific or historic interest that are appropriate for protection under the Antiquities Act. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by the BLM personnel; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. The issues include cultural and historic resources, including protection of Indian sacred sites and traditional cultural properties; paleontological resources; travel management; livestock grazing; wildlife; vegetation and fire management; outdoor recreation; and visual resource management. Preliminary planning criteria include: 1) The public planning process for the RMP will be guided by Presidential Proclamation [insert number], in addition to FLPMA and NEPA. 2) The BLM will use current scientific information, research, technologies, and results of inventory, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate management. 3) The BLM will strive to ensure that management decisions are consistent with other adjoining planning jurisdictions, both federal and nonfederal. 4) Decisions made in the planning process will only apply to public lands and, where appropriate, split-estate lands where the subsurface mineral estate is managed by the BLM. 6) Existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) will be managed to prevent impairment and ensure continued suitability for designation as wilderness. Should Congress release all or part of a WSA from wilderness study, resource management will be determined by preparing an amendment to the RMP. 7) The BLM will consider

changes to the off-highway vehicle (OHV) area designations (open, closed, limited) approved through the Monticello Field Office Record of Decision and Approved RMP. Implementation travel and transportation management planning (route designations) will be deferred until after the RMP is completed.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the “ADDRESSES” section above. To be most helpful, you should submit comments within 15 days after the last public meeting. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM will evaluate identified issues to be addressed in the plan, and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS as to why an issue was placed in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plan. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA scoping process to help fulfill the public involvement process under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: rangeland management,

minerals and geology, forestry, outdoor recreation, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife and fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology and economics.

AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2

Edwin L. Roberson

State Director

[insert billing code]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[insert Agency docket number]

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Bears Ears

National Monument Shash Jáa Unit and associated Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the National Forest Management Act of 1976, as amended (NFMA), and Presidential Proclamation *[insert number]*, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Canyon Country District Office, Moab, Utah, and Manti La Sal National Forest, Price, Utah, intend to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) Shash Jáa Unit and by this notice are announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The RMP will replace portions of the existing Monticello Field Office Record of Decision and Approved RMP and Manti La Sal National Forest Plan.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RMP with associated EIS. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at:

<https://www.blm.gov/utah>. In order to be considered in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to 15 days after the last public meeting. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

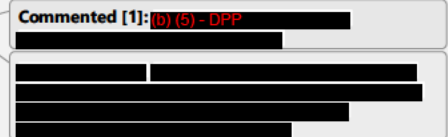
ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to by any of the following methods:

- Website: [\[insert full URL\]](#)
- Mail: 365 North Main P.O. Box 7 Monticello, UT 84535

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM Canyon Country District or Monticello Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lance Porter, District Manager, telephone (435) 259 2100; address 365 North Main P.O. Box 7 Monticello, UT 84535; email BLM_UT_Shash_Jaa@blm.gov. Contact Mr. Porter to add your name to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1 800 877 8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Canyon Country District Office, Moab, Utah, and Manti La Sal National Forest, Price, Utah, intend to prepare a RMP with an associated EIS for the Shash Jáa National Monument, announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in San Juan County, Utah and



encompasses approximately 97,393 acres of BLM National Conservation Lands and 32,587 acres of National Forest System Lands.

On December 4, 2017, President Donald Trump signed Proclamation [insert number] modifying the Bears Ears National Monument in order to ensure that the Federal land set aside is the smallest area compatible with the care and management of those objects of historic or scientific interest that are appropriate for protection under the Antiquities Act. The revised BENM boundary includes into two units known as the Shash Jaa and Indian Creek Units. To ensure that management decisions reflect tribal expertise and traditional and historical knowledge, proclamation 9558, signed on December 28, 2016 established a Bears Ears Commission to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of a management plan for the Bears Ears National Monument. Presidential Proclamation [insert number] modifies proclamation 9558 and clarifies that the Bears Ears Commission shall be known as the Shash Jaa Commission, and shall apply only to the Shash Jaa Unit. The Commission consists of one elected officer each from the Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Zuni Tribe, designated by the officers' respective tribes, and the elected officer of the San Juan County Commission representing District 3 acting in that officer's official capacity.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by the BLM and USFS personnel; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. The issues will include cultural and historic resources, including protection of Indian

sacred sites, traditional uses, and traditional cultural properties; paleontological resources; travel management; livestock grazing; wildlife; vegetation and fire management, including woodcutting and collection of medicinal and ceremonial plants; outdoor recreation; and visual resource management. Preliminary planning criteria include: 1) The public planning process for the RMP will be guided proclamation [*insert number*], in addition to FLPMA, NFMA, and NEPA. 2) To the maximum extent possible, the BLM and USFS will effectively partner with the Shash Jáa Commission to ensure that management decisions affecting the monument reflect tribal expertise and traditional and historical knowledge. 3) The BLM and USFS will use current scientific information, research, technologies, and results of inventory, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate management. 4) The BLM and USFS will strive to ensure that management decisions are consistent with other adjoining planning jurisdictions, both federal and nonfederal. 5) Decisions made in the planning process will only apply to BLM National Conservation Lands, National Forest System Lands and, where appropriate, split estate lands where the subsurface mineral estate is managed by the BLM. 6) Existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) will be managed to prevent impairment and ensure continued suitability for designation as wilderness. Should Congress release all or part of a WSA from wilderness study, resource management will be determined by preparing an amendment to the RMP. 7) The BLM will consider changes to the off highway vehicle (OHV) area designations (open, closed, limited) approved through the Monticello Field Office Record of Decision and Approved RMP. Implementation travel and transportation management planning (route designations) will be deferred until after the RMP is completed.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the “ADDRESSES” section above. To be most helpful, you should submit comments within 15 days after the last public meeting. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM and USFS will evaluate identified issues to be addressed in the plan, and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM and USFS will provide an explanation in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS as to why an issue was placed in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plan. The BLM and USFS will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The BLM and USFS will utilize and coordinate the NEPA scoping process to help fulfill the public involvement process under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural

resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM and USFS in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM and USFS will consult with Indian tribes on a government to government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM and USFS are evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM and USFS to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: rangeland management, minerals and geology, forestry, outdoor recreation, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife and fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology and economics.

AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2

Edwin L. Roberson

State Director

