

To: Abbie Jossie[ajossie@blm.gov]
Cc: Edwin Roberson[eroberso@blm.gov]; Anita Bilbao[abilbao@blm.gov]
From: Sutherland, Ryan
Sent: 2017-07-07T16:29:16-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: TPs for Secretary Zinke
Received: 2017-07-07T16:29:23-04:00
[Utah BLM grazing admin info sheet .docx](#)

Abbie,

The attached document is the BLM-Utah grazing fact sheet that Alan Bass put together. If you are good with this, I will have Ed and Anita review before sending to WO.

Ryan Sutherland
Bureau of Land Management Utah
Public Affairs Specialist
rrsutherland@blm.gov
801 539 4089

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

From: Bass, Alan <abass@blm.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 2:25 PM
Subject: Re: TPs for Secretary Zinke
To: "Sutherland, Ryan" <rrsutherland@blm.gov>

Please find attached a grazing admin fact sheet.

On Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 1:15 PM, Sutherland, Ryan <rrsutherland@blm.gov> wrote:

Allen,

Per our phone call, Secretary Zinke is speaking at the Farm Bureau Tuesday, July 11, and we have been tasked with providing facts related to grazing in Utah. I have included the most recent Congressional Hot Topics briefing which highlights the GSENM livestock planning amendment. We have also been asked to provide the number of allotments, and any key facts and figures you can provide that may help him if he gets any questions.

This is a short fuse tasking and will need the information COB today.

Thank you for your help with this.

Ryan Sutherland
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From: Clutter, Stephen <sclutter@blm.gov>

Date: Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 12:32 PM
Subject: Fwd: TPs for Secretary Zinke
To: "Ronald (Rudy) Evenson" <revenson@blm.gov>, Ryan Sutherland
<rrsutherland@blm.gov>
Cc: Christopher Rose <crose@blm.gov>, Brian Lombard <blombard@blm.gov>

Rudy, Ryan - we got a very short fuse tasking from DOI regarding the Secretary speaking at the Farm Bureau Tuesday. Brian Lombard is pulling the tasking together. Megan Crandall suggested we include some facts about grazing in Utah and Nevada, noting the number of allotments and whatever facts and figures you can provide that may help him if he gets any questions. Also, any information regarding disputed grazing issues, such as in monument areas, and perhaps Battle Mountain's issues.

If you can, please send Brian what you can today. Steve

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From: **Clutter, Stephen** <sclutter@blm.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 1:46 PM
Subject: Fwd: TPs for Secretary Zinke
To: Brian Lombard <blombard@blm.gov>
Cc: Matthew Allen <mrallen@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Beverly Winston <bwinston@blm.gov>, Gregory Fuhs <gfuhs@blm.gov>, "Krause, Amy" <alkrause@blm.gov>

Brian, apologies for the quick suspense, but this one is hot as blazes. Are you able to pull together talking points on grazing/ranching and flag any issues that might come up? He wants them today but Monday mid day would work.

Steve

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From: **Ross, Paul** <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 1:35 PM
Subject: TPs for Secretary Zinke
To: Stephen Clutter <sclutter@blm.gov>
Cc: "Krauss, Jeff" <jkrauss@blm.gov>

Hi Steve-

The Secretary will be speaking with the American Farm Bureau leadership (board and state leaders) on Tuesday morning. Can you please send us a few general talkers on grazing/ranching and flag any issues that might come up?

He's speaking for 10 min and will have 20 min of Q&A.

COB would be great. But if you can get them by Monday mid-day that'd work.

Thanks and I appreciate the quick-turn!

Paul R. Ross

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Stephen Clutter

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Utah BLM grazing info sheet 7-7-17

1. Utah BLM administers about 1350 grazing allotments
2. Utah BLM administers about 1475 grazing permits.
3. Utah BLM currently has 28 field office Rangeland Management Specialists responsible for Grazing Administration. On average each Rangeland Management has 790,000 acres and 52 allotment of administrative responsibility each.
4. In the Public Land statistics as of January 8th 2016 Utah BLM had 1,204,964 Active Animal Unit Mounts (AUMs) and 308,377 Suspended AUMs.
 - a. For comparison: in the 2007 public land statistics Utah BLM had 1,224,207 Active AUMs and 323,802 Suspended AUMs.
 - b. In the 1997 public land statistics, Utah BLM had 1,278,515 Active AUMs and 352,897 Suspended AUMs.
 - c. AUM reductions
 - i. Nationally Over time, there has been a gradual decrease in the amount of grazing that takes place on BLM-managed land (because of such factors as changes in land-use plans, wildlife habitat protection, and ranching business decisions), and that trend continues today. Grazing use on public lands has declined from 18.2 million AUMs in 1954 to 8.3 million AUMs in 2014 (a 54 percent decrease).
 - ii. Data from the Public Land Statistics from 1996 to 2014 shows about a 6.3% reduction in Active AUMs.
 - iii. Utah BLM has reduced through decision somewhere between 1.8% to 3% of Active AUMs over the past 10 years.
5. Water rights is a very hot topic for the Farm Bureau in Utah. On May 18th, 2017 The CEO of the Utah Farm Bureau, Randy Parker, provided testimony on “Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2371 and Water Rights Protection Act Discussion” to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans regarding water rights at a national level.

Below is a brief historical summary of the Utah water law issue:

- a. Utah Governor signed Utah Senate Bill 274 on April 1, 2014.
- b. History of recent livestock water rights in Utah
 - i. Until 2008: BLM could apply for new livestock water rights in the name of the United States
 - ii. 2008 (HB 208): only persons who own grazing permits may apply for livestock water rights. Change application require permittee consent.
 - iii. 2009 (HB 256) BLM required to apply for new water rights jointly with permittees.
- c. Background on 2014 senate bill 274

- i. Removes the requirement that a new livestock water right be acquired jointly by a federal land management agency and the grazing permittee (established in state law in 2009), and replaces it with a procedure in which only grazing permittees may apply for new livestock water rights. This was accomplished by specifically excluding federal land management agencies as “beneficial users” of water unless the agency actually runs livestock on a grazing allotment.
- ii. A federal land management agency may not condition the issuance, renewal, amendment, or extension of any federal grazing permit on the transfer of water rights to the federal agency, or on the requirement that the permittee must apply for water rights in the name of the federal agency.
- iii. If a federal land management agency reduces livestock grazing AUMs on an allotment, the State Engineer can hold unused portions of water rights in trust until the water is appropriated for other livestock grazing uses. The intent of the change appears to be that it would enable the state engineer to state that water not used for livestock watering is not available for other new water rights, such as water rights for wildlife and recreation use.
- iv. It is important to note that the new legislation does not affect existing BLM water rights for livestock watering, the BLM’s ability to apply for recognition of vested water rights based upon historical use (diligence claims), or BLM’s ability to acquire or dispose of livestock water rights in land tenure adjustments.

Disputed grazing issues

The GSENM is a source of discussion. While several claims have been made that with the creation of the Monument grazing AUM levels have drastically dropped, this is not the case. There has been an insignificant change in AUM levels since 1996. The confusion comes in what AUM number is being discussed. The Average actual use has been around 44,000, the active use is 79,000 and the suspended use is 29,000. The actual use is not a reflection of grazing decisions to reduce the AUMS but rather a choice to run less through agreements possible because of resource conditions and/or personal business needs of the permittee. The 79,000 AUMs are still on the books along with the 29,000 suspended AUMs.