

To: 'William (Allan) Bate'[abate@blm.gov]; 'Sean Stewart'[s2stewar@blm.gov]; 'Jason Bybee'[jimbybee@blm.gov]; 'Betenson, Matthew'[mbetenso@blm.gov]; 'Hughes, Amber'[ahughes@blm.gov]
Cc: 'Scott Evans'[sevens@cirrus.com]
From: Benjamin Gaddis
Sent: 2017-09-07T15:00:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: GSENM EAs - GSENM Water Catchments Draft Scoping Notice
Received: 2017-09-07T15:00:32-04:00
[GSENMWaterCatchScopingNoticeDRAFT.DOCX](#)

Hi again all,

The draft scoping notice for the water catchments EA is attached. Please let me know if you'd like to talk anything through on this.

I expect to be able to provide the draft scoping notice for the wells/pipelines EA tomorrow afternoon.

Thanks!

Ben

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In Reply Refer To:

GSENM Water Catchment Projects

DOI BLM UT 0300 2017 0065 EA

MONTH X, 2017

To All Interested Parties:

This scoping letter summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) proposal to construct and install up to six water catchments and associated water distribution infrastructure (e.g., storage tanks, pipelines, troughs) in the Headwaters, First Point, Fivemile Mountain, Mollies Nipple, Wagon Box Mesa, and Death Hollow allotments. The proposed project locations and anticipated project elements are summarized in the table below.

Project	Allotment(s)	Location	Anticipated Project Elements
West Bench Water Catchment	Headwaters	Approximately 25 miles southwest of Cannonville, Utah T 40SR 1E T 39SR 1E Map 1.	Fencing, catchment apron, storage tank, pipeline (approximately 3.9 miles), troughs (2)
Foumle Bench Water Catchment	Headwaters	Approximately 30 miles southwest of Cannonville, Utah T 40SR 2E Map 2.	Fencing, catchment apron, storage tank, pipeline (approximately 3.9 miles), troughs (3)
First Point Water Catchment	First Point	Approximately 16 miles northeast of Kanab, Utah T 41SR 042W Map 3.	Fencing, catchment apron, pipeline (approximately X miles), troughs (2)
Fivemile North Water Catchment	Fivemile Mountain	Approximately 30 miles northeast of Kanab, Utah T 42SR 2W Map 4.	Fencing, catchment apron, trough (1)
Houserock Valley Water Catchment	Mollies Nipple	Approximately 30 miles east of Kanab, Utah T 43SR 2W Map 5.	Fencing, catchment apron, trough (1)
Wagon Box Water Catchment	Wagon Box Mesa Death Hollow	Approximately 30 miles east of Escalante, Utah T 34SR 7E Map 6.	Fencing, catchment apron, storage tank, pipeline (approximately 0.5 mile), trough (1)

Commented [BG1]: This project appears to have a relationship with Death Hollow Allotment per information provided during the solicitation process and in the map data provided to date. However, the Death Hollow Allotment has not been mentioned in previous discussions nor were data provided for Death Hollow. Please clarify.

Commented [BG2]: Previously provided information (during the solicitation process) indicates 3 troughs but the maps recently provided indicated 2 troughs. Which is correct?

Commented [BG4]: Pipeline does not appear in KMZ files provided. Unsure of approximate length.

Commented [BG3]: This seems incorrect but it is what shows up on the PDF map. Please clarify.

Commented [BG5]: Apron is the only project feature that appears on the map data provided to date. I assume that the other features would be needed as well. Correct?

Commented [BG6]: Apron is the only project feature that appears on the map data provided to date. I assume that the other features would be needed as well. Correct?

Commented [BG7]: This project appears to have a relationship with Death Hollow Allotment per information provided during the solicitation process and in the map data provided to date. Please clarify.

The proposed projects would be in conformance with the GSENM Management Plan (MMP), as amended by the Utah Greater Sage Grouse Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment finalized in September 2015. These projects would fulfill the water resource objective outlined in the MMP to

“ensure that appropriate quality and quantity of water resources are available for the proper care and management of the objects of the Monument.” These projects would specifically conform to MMP direction related to water resources (WAT) and water related developments (WDEV). Further, these projects would not conflict with other MMP direction.

The purpose of this scoping letter is to inform interested and affected parties of the proposal and to solicit comments to assist with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the proposal. Analysis of the proposal will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues to be analyzed related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that would meet the purpose of and need for the projects.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the BLM action is to provide reliable water storage and improve water availability for wildlife and livestock in the Headwaters, First Point, Fivemile Mountain, Mollies Nipple, Wagon Box Mesa, and Death Hollow allotments. Reliable water storage and improved water availability are also intended to improve livestock distribution (dispersing cattle throughout the area to take advantage of available forage and reduce concentration of livestock at existing water sources) and thereby enhance habitat and improve vegetation, soil, and water resource conditions.

The need for the BLM action is based on lack of dependable water sources and/or resource impacts near existing water sources across portions of the aforementioned allotments.

Decision to be Made

Following the environmental analysis in the EA, the GSENM Manager will decide whether or not to implement the proposed water catchment projects and if so under what conditions, specifications, and provisions.

Alternatives

A reasonable range of alternatives that address the purpose and need will be considered for analysis. Alternatives currently being considered include the following:

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not implement the proposal to construct and install up to six water catchments and associated water distribution infrastructure (e.g., storage tanks, pipelines, troughs) in the Headwaters, First Point, Fivemile Mountain, Mollies Nipple, Wagon Box Mesa, and Death Hollow allotments as summarized above.

Proposed Action Alternative: Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the BLM would construct and install water catchments and associated water distribution infrastructure (e.g., storage tanks, pipelines, troughs) in the Headwaters, First Point, Fivemile Mountain, Mollies Nipple, Wagon Box Mesa, and Death Hollow allotments as summarized above.

Public Input Needed

This project and supporting documents are available from the BLM's national NEPA register:

<https://go.usa.gov/xRATK>.

We would like to hear from you regarding any issues or concerns you feel we should consider in development of the projects and associated EA. If you are interested in providing us with information, potential issues, or alternatives, please write to Amber Hughes, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, P.O. Box 225, Escalante, UT 84726 on or before MONTH X, 2017. Comments may also be submitted by email at blm_ut_gs_comments@blm.gov (please include "GSENM Water Catchment Projects" in the subject line). You may also fax your comments to 435 826 5650. Those who submit comments will be added to the project mailing list.

Before including your address, phone number, e mail 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. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Staszak

Monument Manager

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

Enclosures

Map 1

Map 2

Map 3

Map 4

Map 5

Map 6

Commented [BG8]: Or use the link that appears after clicking on this link?
<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=88914>

Commented [BG9]: Allan Bate?

Commented [BG10]: Use Kanab address?

Commented [BG11]: Correct?