

To: Bate, William (Allan)[abate@blm.gov]; Sean Stewart[s2stewar@blm.gov]; Jason Bybee[jmbybee@blm.gov]; Betenson, Matthew[mbetenso@blm.gov]; 'Backer, Dana'[dbacker@blm.gov]
Cc: 'Scott Evans'[sevans@cirruses.com]
From: Benjamin Gaddis
Sent: 2017-11-15T12:31:22-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: GSENM EAs - revised water catchment projects scoping notice
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[GSENMWaterCatchScopingNoticeDRAFT v2 2017 11 15.docx](#)

Allan,

The revised scoping notice for the water catchment projects EA is attached. If you'd like to talk anything through on this please let me know. I am available more or less all day today.

I'll move on to the wells/pipelines scoping notice next.

Thanks!

Ben

Benjamin Gaddis, M.E.M., C.P.F.
Consulting – Facilitation – Training
Gaddis Consulting, LLC
(801) 259-3257
bgaddis@gaddisconsultingllc.com
 [profile](#)

In Reply Refer To:

GSENM Water Catchment Projects

DOI BLM UT 0300 2017 0065 EA

DATE, 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., protection fencing, catchment aprons, storage tanks, pipelines, troughs, wildlife drinkers) 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 Table 1. Additional details concerning the proposed projects are provided under the Alternatives heading below.

Table 1. Summary of Proposed Project Locations and Anticipated Project Elements.

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 West Bench Water Catchment Map.	Fencing, catchment apron, storage tank, pipeline (approximately 3 miles placed in or adjacent to Monument Administrative Road #441A), troughs (3), wildlife drinker
Foumle Bench Water Catchment	Headwaters	Approximately 30 miles southwest of Cannonville, Utah T 40SR 2E Foumle Water Catchment Map.	Fencing, catchment apron, storage tank, pipeline (approximately 3 miles placed in or adjacent to Monument Administrative Road #444A, #445A, and #446A), troughs (5), wildlife drinker
First Point Water Catchment	First Point	Approximately 16 miles northeast of Kanab, Utah T 41SR 042W First Point Water Catchment Map.	Fencing, catchment apron, storage tank, pipeline (approximately 3 miles placed in or adjacent to the existing two track road that is located north of Monument Road #502), troughs (3), wildlife drinker
Fivemile North Water Catchment	Fivemile Mountain	Approximately 30 miles northeast of Kanab, Utah T 42SR 2W Fivemile North Water Catchment Map.	Fencing, catchment apron, storage tank, pipeline (approximately 100 200 feet placed, subject to construction constraints, to minimize pipeline distance and disturbance), trough (1), wildlife drinker

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Table 1. Summary of Proposed Project Locations and Anticipated Project Elements.

Project	Allotment(s)	Location	Anticipated Project Elements
Houserock Valley Water Catchment	Mollies Nipple	Approximately 35 miles east of Kanab, Utah T 43SR 2W Houserock Valley Water Catchment Map.	Fencing, catchment apron, storage tank, pipeline (approximately 100 200 feet placed, subject to construction constraints, to minimize pipeline distance and disturbance), trough (1), wildlife drinker
Wagon Box Water Catchment	Wagon Box Mesa and Death Hollow	Approximately 30 miles east of Boulder, Utah T 34SR 7E Wagon Box Mesa Water Catchment Map.	Fencing, catchment apron, storage tank, pipeline (approximately 0.5 mile placed, subject to construction constraints, to minimize pipeline distance and disturbance), troughs (2), wildlife drinker

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 wildlife 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 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., protection fencing, catchment aprons, storage tanks, pipelines, troughs, wildlife drinkers) in the Headwaters, First Point, Fivemile Mountain, Mollies Nipple, Wagon Box Mesa, and Death Hollow allotments.

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

Anticipated elements of each project under the Proposed Action are summarized in Table 1. Further details related to each project element are provided below.

Catchment (collection) aprons Each catchment apron would be approximately 40,000 square feet placed in the center of an area approximately 63,000 square feet (to provide for a 10 15 foot buffer area around each apron). Each apron would be constructed of black polythene sheeting with heat sealed seams. The shape of each apron would be determined by topographical constraints at each location. Prior to construction each apron area would be leveled with a grader or bulldozer or other similar equipment. If needed, fill material such as gravel or top soil may be trucked in from an outside source using existing roads. Fill material would be used to protect and increase the life of each apron by covering areas of exposed bedrock that may otherwise damage the apron. Up to 2.5 acres of surface disturbance would occur for each catchment area.

Protection fences Each catchment apron would be surrounded by a livestock protection fence enclosing an area approximately 90,000 square feet in total extent. Each protection fence would be barbed wire construction (four strand steel post fencing with cedar post H braces) with the bottom wire approximately 18 inches above the ground surface and smooth to allow for passage of wildlife. The top wire of each fence would not exceed approximately 42 inches above ground surface.

Wildlife drinkers A wildlife drinker would be installed within the perimeter of each protection fence. Each wildlife drinker would be fed by a storage tank outlet pipe below the outlet pipe for the troughs to ensure that wildlife drinkers would have water available from the storage tank.

Storage tanks Each storage tank would be approximately 60 feet in diameter and nine feet high with a storage capacity of approximately 125,000 gallons. The bottom surface of each storage tank would consist of a concrete pad foundation approximately one foot thick hauled to the area using a cement

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truck. The sides of each storage tank would be made of galvanized steel. Each storage tank would be covered by a corrugated tin lid with metal supports placed within the storage tank. Storage tank assembly would occur on site. The storage tank placement area (up to approximately 6,400 square feet in extent) would be cleared and leveled using a grader or bulldozer or similar equipment prior to construction of the storage tank.

Pipelines Pipelines would vary in length from as little as approximately 100 200 feet to as long as approximately three miles depending on the specific water catchment project (see Table 1). Each pipeline would be constructed of 1.5 inch diameter HDPE pipe buried 24 to 36 inches deep with either a backhoe or trencher or ripped in with a dozer equipped with a ripper and attached pipe layer. Longer pipelines (approximately three miles) would be placed in or adjacent to existing roads or two track roads (see Table 1). Shorter pipelines (between approximately 100 200 feet and 0.5 mile in total length) would be placed (subject to project specific construction constraints such as topography, bedrock, etc.) to minimize total pipeline distance and surface disturbance.

Troughs Troughs would be up to 1,000 gallons in total capacity and round or rectangular in shape. Each trough would occupy up to approximately 8 square feet in total area and be placed directly on the ground surface following clearing and grading using a grader or bulldozer or similar equipment. Some troughs would be placed directly adjacent to the catchment outside the protection fence while other troughs would be up to three miles from the catchment area (see Table 1). Troughs associated with the proposed water catchment projects would be new with the exception of one trough in the First Point Allotment which is existing and would be interconnected with the proposed catchment via pipeline.

A total of up to approximately 5 acres of disturbance would occur for each water catchment project (inclusive of each catchment area, troughs, storage tanks, and pipelines). Following project construction activities disturbed areas would be seeded with native grasses, forbs, and shrub species. All fill materials would be of similar color to those occurring at each site. Metal materials used in construction of catchments would be non reflective and colored gray or dark brown. Total construction time is estimated to be approximately six weeks (or approximately 30 work days) though some construction timeframes may be closer to approximately two to four weeks or extend up to approximately eight weeks. The ideal construction window is between May and October though construction activities may fall outside this timeframe based on the availability of funding and personnel resources and other constraints. Project components would be maintained on an as needed basis.

Public Input Needed

This proposal 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 Allan Bate, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, 669 South Hwy 89A, Kanab, UT 84741 on or before **DATE, 2017**. Comments may also be submitted by email at [blm ut gs comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_gs_comments@blm.gov) (please include "GSENM Water Catchment

Projects” in the subject line). You may also fax your comments to 435 644 1250. 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

Date

Monument Manager

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

Enclosures

West Bench Water Catchment Map

Fourmile Water Catchment Map

First Point Water Catchment Map

Fivemile North Water Catchment Map

Houserock Valley Water Catchment Map

Wagon Box Mesa Water Catchment Map