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**From:** Krauss, Jeff  
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[BLM Utah CommPlan ActiononMonumentReview Updated 610.docx](#)  
[BLM Utah QandA GSENM Updated 610.docx](#)  
[BLM Utah QandA BENM Updated 610.docx](#)

Chris and Nikki,  
can you please review the draft Q&As and attached comm plan? thanks.

Jeff

**Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument**  
Questions and Answers

**What are the major differences between the previous GSENM boundary established in 1996 and the revised monument boundary established in 2017?**

PLACEHOLDER: *Insert key acreage differences, a comparison map, note geographic areas affected by revision, discuss the inclusion of key areas with "objects" (paleo/archy/etc.) and also note areas with other non monument protections that are outside of the new boundary.*

**Who manages the national monument?**

The BLM solely manages the monument. Only federal lands are subject to the terms of the proclamation.

**Can I visit the new national monument?**

Yes. All four GSENM visitor centers will continue to operate during their normal business hours until further notice. The public is invited to continue enjoying public lands in Garfield and Kane counties, regardless of whether the lands are inside or outside of the new monument boundaries.

**I have a grazing/special recreation/research permit within GSENM. Who do I contact?**

All grazing, research, and special recreation permits issued by GSENM remain in effect under the existing terms and conditions. BLM will contact individual permittees with improved information in the near future. Please submit any required forms and fees to GSENM on their previously established due date.

**How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect the management of paleontological resources in the area?**

The new national monument boundaries were carefully selected to include known paleontological specimens and high fossil yield classes, including the area where the recent Tyrannosaurus specimen was located.

Federal law prohibits the collection of vertebrate fossils on all public lands without a valid paleontological research permit. All lands previously located in the GSENM boundary remain closed to the collection of petrified wood and fossils. Under DOI's Proposed rule at 43 CFR § 49, the casual collection of common invertebrate fossils would remain prohibited in the newly designated national monuments.

The casual collection of common invertebrate fossils in areas no longer included in a national monument would be considered through a future land use plan amendment.

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**How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect mineral leasing in the area?**

All lands within the new monument boundaries will remain closed to mineral leasing. All lands previously included in the GSENM boundary remain closed to mineral leasing. A future land use plan amendment would determine whether public lands that are not included in the new national monument should be open or closed to leasing and any appropriate constraints.

**How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect mineral location in the area?**

The new monument is withdrawn from mineral entry. Public lands that are not included in the new national monument are immediately available for mineral location.

**How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect livestock grazing management?**

No changes will occur to livestock grazing management as a result of the new monument proclamation. Grazing continues to be authorized with the goal of maintaining healthy land conditions. Livestock grazing will continue to be managed under existing laws, regulations, and policies followed by the BLM. Changes in livestock grazing management will continue to occur on a case by case basis until a land use plan amendment is completed.

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**How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect travel management or route designations?**

Motorized vehicle travel will continue be allowed on currently designated motorized vehicle routes. The new monument designation has no immediate effect on public motorized access. The current travel management plan will remain in effect until a land use plan amendment or revision. This could result in some changes in motorized vehicle use both inside and outside of the national monument boundaries. Any changes to the travel management plan will include public involvement.

**How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect the need for overnight camping permits?**

Users are still required to obtain free overnight permits within both the new monument and the previous GSENM boundaries. Permits are available at major trailheads or at any of the four Visitor Centers.

**Can I hunt or fish within the new national monument?**

GSENM continues to be open to hunting and fishing. These activities are managed by the Utah Department of Fish and Wildlife under the same regulations as before the original designation.

## Communication Plan

### *Presidential Action on Secretarial Recommendation for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument*

#### INTRODUCTION

BLM Utah currently manages two national monuments: Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) established by President Clinton in 1996 and Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) established by President Obama in 2016. The establishment of both monuments has been the subject of intense media scrutiny and controversy. In April 2017, President Trump released an Executive Order requesting review of certain monuments, including GSENM and BENM. Secretary Zinke conducted a field visit to both monuments and prepared a recommendation.

President Trump has publicly announced his intention to visit Utah in early December to announce action on the Secretarial recommendations for BENM and GSENM. This document provides consistent messaging and information to use during the initial roll out of the new proclamations when responding to both the public and media.

#### COMMUNICATION GOALS

1. Communicate BLM (and USFS) support of the national monuments review following direction in Presidential Executive Order 13792.
2. Communicate immediate tangible results from presidential action on resources and management within the areas currently managed as BENM and GSENM, focusing on other applicable laws for relevant cultural and natural resources.

#### TARGET AUDIENCE:

- People who follow news about the two National Monuments in Utah
- Local, state, and federal government agencies
- Tribes
- Local communities (Monticello, Blanding, Bluff, Cortez, Dove Creek, Montezuma Creek, Kanab, Escalante, Big Water, Cannonville, Boulder, Glendale)
- Special interest groups
- Nonprofit organizations
- Media and social media
- Industry –energy, grazing, mining
- Recreationists (climbing, mountain biking, rock art/archaeology/paleontology groups, OHV users)

**Talking Points**

1. As part of its review of national monuments, Secretary Zinke and key members of his staff met with stakeholders and members of the local community on the ground, demonstrating his commitment to hearing from everyone, particularly local voices affected by national monument designations. These meetings were in addition to the comment period held to gather input from interested parties.
2. Any public lands outside of the revised monument boundaries will remain in the stewardship of BLM and USFS. BLM lands and will be managed according to all relevant laws including the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Many of the areas in Garfield, Kane and San Juan counties that are outside of the new monument boundaries also have additional resource protection measures under agency guidance for Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, designated "natural areas," and Special Recreation Management Areas.
3. Existing management plans remain in effect until new plans are developed.
4. Public input is key to sound decision making. Public involvement will be welcomed in future land use planning and NEPA analyses as the agencies implement the new Proclamations. BLM appreciates the time and effort people take in providing comments, because inclusion is vital to managing sustainable, working public lands.

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**STRATEGIES**

1. Generally, questions regarding the status of the monument review or Presidential action will be answered using information in DOI press releases. Members of the media will be referred to [press\\_interior@ios.doi.gov](mailto:press_interior@ios.doi.gov) during the initial roll out.
2. Q&A documents for BENM and GSENM.
3. Edit BLM Utah website content to reflect revised monument boundaries, provide copy of Proclamation, etc.

**TALKING POINTS****I. Secretarial Review of National Monuments:****In response to media inquiries:**

The Department of Interior is coordinating all media inquiries regarding the monument review. Please contact [interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov).

**If asked about Utah's efforts to transfer federal lands to the state:**

In recent statements, Secretary Zinke has firmly restated his opposition to the selling or transferring public lands and the importance of retaining federal ownership of those lands, regardless of any recommendations for modifications to national monuments. These lands and their resources will remain in the stewardship of the BLM and USFS and available for public use.

**Other questions (Paraphrased or direct quotes from DOI Press Releases):**

DOI hosted a formal public comment period on the review from May 12, 2017, to July 10, 2017. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to comment, and to stakeholders who hosted field trips or met with Secretary Zinke. This was the first ever public review and comment for decisions about national monuments created under the Antiquities Act. The comments received helped inform Secretary Zinke's recommendations to the President.

On June 12, 2017, Secretary Zinke submitted a 45 day interim report on Bears Ears National Monument to the President. His initial recommendations for Bears Ears included:

- Reconsidering monument boundaries
- Areas with cultural significance be co managed by Tribal Nations
- Congressional action to protect certain areas

The 120 day review included more than 60 meetings with hundreds of advocates and opponents of monument designations, tours of monuments, including Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante, conducted over air, foot, car, and horseback, and a thorough review of more than 2.4 million public comments submitted to the Department on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Additionally, countless more meetings and conversations between senior Interior officials and local, state, tribal, and non government stakeholders including multiple tribal listening sessions.

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PLACEHOLDER: ADD INFO FROM FINAL SECRETARIAL REPORT/PROCLAMATION

**II. Management of archaeological and paleontological resources on all public lands, regardless of monument designation**

The Bureau of Land Management manages fossil resources according to the provisions spelled out in the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (2009), which mandates that fossils on all federal lands be managed according to best scientific principles in order to prevent avoidable losses.

- Federal law prohibits the collection of vertebrate fossils on all public lands without a valid paleontological research permit.

- BLM generally allows for “casual collecting” of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources for noncommercial personal use when it results in negligible disturbance to the Earth’s surface. However, under DOI’s Proposed rule at 43 CFR § 49, casual collecting of common invertebrate fossils is prohibited in national monuments and certain other special designations.
- For more info, see this [PRPA Fact Sheet](#).

All BLM lands and resources are also subject to the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). ARPA and NAGPRA protect cultural resources on all public lands from looting and vandalism. NHPA requires BLM to consider the potential effects to cultural resources from proposed actions on public lands and to avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects that are determined to meet the definition of “adverse.” NHPA also provides for important input from consulting parties and the public. NAGPRA addresses the rights of American Indians to cultural items, including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

- BLM works closely with tribes and Utah’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to manage our nation’s important cultural resources and values.
- BLM Utah has stepped up our efforts taking a multi pronged approach as part of the Utah [Respect and Protect Campaign](#), including these successful measures:
  - Partnering with groups like Tread Lightly! and Friends of Cedar Mesa to help spread messages about protecting sites and visiting with respect;
  - Strengthening our volunteer and site stewardship programs;
  - Encouraging people to report vandalism on secure hotlines;
  - Implementing restoration and site stabilization projects;
  - Replacing and enhancing signs;
  - Increasing the presence of volunteers and BLM staff in the area; and
  - Filling vacant law enforcement positions.

### **III. Management of mineral resources**

All lands within the new monument boundaries will remain closed to mineral leasing, except for valid existing rights that preceded designation. Lands outside of the new monument boundaries will be managed according to the existing land use plans. Future land use plan amendments will determine whether lands outside of the new monument boundaries should be open or closed to leasing or mineral development and the appropriate constraints (e.g., No Surface Occupancy) through the public facing land use planning process. Public lands that are not included in the new national monument are immediately available for mineral location.

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**IV. Management of valid existing rights (pre designation rights of way, leases, water rights, etc.) and grazing**

All valid existing rights are honored, regardless of monument designation. Nothing interferes with continued operation or maintenance of rights of way like existing power lines and pipelines.

Grazing continues to be authorized with the goal of and maintaining healthy land conditions. There have been no changes to grazing management in either GSENM or BENM since their initial establishment as monuments.

**V. Management of Wilderness Study Areas and other special designations, regardless of monument designation**

There are few tangible changes in the management of certain special areas based on the outcome of the monument review.

Approximately XX acres of the lands in San Juan, Garfield and Kane counties outside of the new monument boundaries are managed as WSAs. WSAs are roadless areas with wilderness characteristics. The BLM is required to manage these areas to preserve their suitability for designation as wilderness until Congress makes a final determination on whether these areas should be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. WSAs are also closed to mineral leasing. Special Recreation Management Area (SRMAs) are areas that require explicit recreation management to achieve recreation objectives and provide specific recreation opportunities. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are designated through the land use planning process to protect, and prevent irreparable damage to, important historic, cultural, and scenic values, fish, or wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards.

**VI. Management of wildland fire, regardless of monument designation**

A national monument designation does not change fire management activities. All future management will continue to focus first on public and firefighter safety while taking actions to protect valuable resources. Fuel reduction projects may be implemented in national monuments to address the risk of wildfire, insect infestation, or disease that would imperil public safety or endanger the objects or resources protected by the national monument designation.

**VII. PLACEHOLDER: MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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## Bears Ears National Monument

### Questions and Answers

**What are the major differences between the previous BENM boundary established in 2016 and the revised monument boundary established in 2017?**

PLACEHOLDER: Insert key acreage differences, a comparison map, note geographic areas affected by revision, discuss the inclusion of key areas with "objects" (paleo/archy/etc.) and also note areas with other non monument protections that are outside of the new boundary.

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**Who manages the new national monument?**

The BLM and the USFS jointly manage the new national monument. Only federal lands are subject to the terms of the proclamation. Goosenecks State Park and Natural Bridges National Monument are within the Bears Ears National Monument boundary; however, these areas will continue to be managed by Utah State Parks and the National Park Service, respectively. No reservation lands are included in Bears Ears National Monument.

**Can I visit the new national monument?**

Yes. The Monticello Field Office and Kane Gulch Ranger Station will continue to operate during their normal business hours until further notice. The public is invited to continue enjoying public lands in San Juan County, regardless of whether the lands are inside or outside of the new monument boundaries. (Note: The Kane Gulch Ranger Station is open annually from March 1 through June 15 and September 1 through October 31.)

**I have a grazing/special recreation/research permit within BENM. Who do I contact?**

All grazing, research, and special recreation permits issued by the Monticello Field Office remain in effect under the existing terms and conditions. BLM will contact individual permittees with improved information in the near future. Please submit any required forms and fees to the Monticello Field Office on their previously established due date.

**How are American Indian tribes involved in the management of the new national monument?**

To reflect tribal expertise and traditional and historical knowledge, the proclamation established a Bears Ears Commission. The commission is composed of one elected officer from the Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Zuni Tribe. The proclamation requires the BLM and the USFS to "meaningfully engage the Commission...in the development of the management plan and to inform subsequent management of the monument." The BLM and the USFS are looking forward to working together with the newly established Bears Ears Commission to implement the proclamation.

In addition to working with the Bears Ears Commission, the BLM and the USFS will continue to engage in government to government consultation with the tribes that have cultural affiliation with the area.

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**How do changes in the BENM boundary affect mineral leasing in the area?**

All lands within the new monument boundaries will remain closed to mineral leasing. BLM administered lands that are outside of the new monument boundaries will be managed according to the 2008 Monticello Resource Management Plan, as amended. National Forest System lands that are outside of the new monument boundaries will managed in according to Manti La Sal Forest Plan.

**How do changes in the BENM boundary affect mineral location in the area?**

The new monument is withdrawn from mineral entry. Public lands that are not included in the new national monument are immediately available for mineral location.

**How do changes in the BENM boundary affect livestock grazing management?**

Grazing continues to be authorized with the goal of maintaining healthy land conditions. Livestock grazing will continue to be managed under existing laws, regulations, and policies followed by the BLM and the USFS.

**Will American Indian tribes have access to the area for ceremonial and other traditional uses?**

Yes. Tribes will continue to be able to collect plants and other traditional materials for noncommercial uses inside and outside of the new national monuments. American Indians who are collecting products on BLM administered lands for ceremonial or other traditional uses can obtain a free use permit from the BLM Monticello Field Office, 365 North Main Street, Monticello, UT 84535 (435) 587 1500.

**How do changes in the BENM boundary affect firewood collection?**

The new monument proclamation has no immediate effect on firewood collection. BLM will continue to issue permits based on the availability of woodland products and protection of other resource values. The existing Monticello Field Office Resource Management Plan identifies areas that are open for firewood collection. In some areas, commercial and private collection of firewood is not allowed.

**How do changes in the BENM boundary affect travel management or route designations?**

Public lands in San Juan County provide outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation. All roads and trails that were open before the original monument designation (approximately 1,800 miles) continue to be open to motorized vehicle use. The revised proclamation has no

immediate bearing on public motorized access. As part of the management planning process for the new national monuments, the travel management plans for these areas will be updated. This could result in some changes in motorized vehicle use. Any changes to the travel management plan will include public involvement.

**Can I hunt within the national monument?**

BENM continues to be open to hunting opportunities. Hunting will continue to be managed by the State of Utah under the same regulations as before the original designation.

**Do I need camping permits or climbing permits to access the monument?**

Under current management, no permits are required for car camping on BLM administered lands, unless there are more than 15 vehicles or more than 50 people. Backcountry camping permits are required for many of the Cedar Mesa canyons. No permits are required for rock climbing. However, all commercial guiding and activities on any BLM administered lands require a permit.