

To: Tyler Ashcroft[tashcrof@blm.gov]
Cc: Cameron Cox[cdcox@blm.gov]; Matthew Zweifel[mzweifel@blm.gov]
From: Thomas, Nathan
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WO Data Call BENM and GSENM May 15, 2017.docx

Tyler,
here is what I've come up with so far. I added some background to help the reader know what a site is and what a survey is. With Cameron's and Matt's help I can get more detailed into the "values" if you think we need to.

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Nate Thomas
Deputy Preservation Officer BLM Utah
Cultural Resource Program Lead
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145
(801) 539-4276

WASHINGTON OFFICE DATA CALL FOR BENM AND GSENM

DATE: May 15, 2017

SUBJECT: List of cultural uses/values for site; number of sites; other quantifiable information where available for the Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

FROM: Nathan Thomas, Deputy Preservation Officer/State Archaeologist BLM-Utah, Utah State Office, (801) 539-4276

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To discuss the location, type and number of archaeological sites and objects within the boundaries of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.

II. BACKGROUND

Almost all archaeological records from archaeological surveys and excavations for the past 50 years are physically housed or available through GIS at the Utah SHPO. The Utah SHPO's archaeological records serve as the starting point or foundation for any archaeological survey or excavation on federal, state, or private lands.

III. NUMBERS OF SITES AND PERCENTAGE SURVEYED

Sites

According to the National Register Bulletin 36: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archaeological Properties*, a "site" is the location of a significant event or of historical human occupation or activity (page 43). BLM-Utah further defines an archaeological site as:

1. At least 10 artifacts of a single class (e.g., 10 sherds) within 10-meter diameter area, except when all pieces appear to originate from a single source (e.g., one ceramic pot, one glass bottle),
2. At least 15 artifacts which include at least 2 classes of artifact types (e.g., sherds, nails, glass) within a 10-meter diameter area
3. One or more archaeological features in temporal association with any number of artifacts, or
4. Two or more temporally associated archaeological features without artifacts.

According to the Utah SHPO, as of February 6, 2017 there are **25,734 recorded archaeological sites** and four archaeological districts within **Bears Ears National Monument (BENM)**. More than 70% of these sites are prehistoric (pre-dating the 1800s). These prehistoric sites include pottery and stone tool (lithic) scatters, the remains of cooking features (hearths), storage features such as adobe granaries and sub-surface stone lined granaries, prehistoric roads, petroglyphs, pictographs and cliff dwellings. Historic sites include historic debris scatters, roads, fences, uranium and vanadium mines from World War II and the Cold War.

At the **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM)** there are **3,985 recorded archaeological sites** (data gathered on March 6, 2017). Similar site types exist for the GSENM as in Bears Ears National Monument, except there are much less, granaries, cliff dwellings and historic mining sites.

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Class III Survey

BLM's 8110 Manual – *Identifying and Evaluating Cultural Resources*, defines Class III – Intensive Survey (Class III Survey) as “Intensive survey is most useful when it is necessary to know precisely what historic properties exist in a given area or when information sufficient for later evaluation and treatment decisions is needed on individual historic properties. Intensive survey describes the distribution of properties in an area; determines the number, location and condition of properties; determines the types of properties actually present within the area; permits classification of individual properties; and records the physical extent of specific properties (page .21B4).” In Utah the primary field method for a Class III Survey is a series 15-meter parallel transects, that cover a project area that has the potential to the disturb ground surface.

BLM has not completely surveyed either Monument. **The total percentage of survey for the BENM is 9.2% and 5.7% of the GSENM.**

IV. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICTS

According to the National Register Bulletin 36: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archaeological Properties, a “district” is a grouping of sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are linked historically by function, theme, or physical development or aesthetically by plan (page 43).

The following archaeological districts are either completely within or partially within the BENM: Butler Wash, Grand Gulch, Natural Bridges, and the Salt Creek Archaeological District.

Although there discrete concentrations of archaeological sites, both prehistoric (i.e. Fremont sites) and historic (i.e. historic ranching and Hole-in-Rock Trail locations) in the GSENM. No formal archaeological districts have been identified by the GSENM.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCE VALUES