

To: Kristin Bail[kbail@blm.gov]
From: Roberson, Edwin
Sent: 2017-03-14T09:59:17-04:00
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Subject: Fwd: Kane County Commission statement regarding BLM
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[BLM Local Employees PDF.pdf](#)

Kristin, I wanted to share this with you before sharing with the broader group. Our monument manager got the email below from Kane County. Also, there was a meeting yesterday where Garfield County voted for a reduction in the size of GSENM. The article link is below. ed

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/5052154-155/garfield-residents-split-over-monument>

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

From: Dirk Clayson <(b) (6)@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 6:44 PM
Subject: Kane County Commission statement regarding BLM
To: Cindy Staszak <cstaszak@blm.gov>, Harry Barber <hbarber@blm.gov>

We read this statement today in hope that it would reduce some of the tension any of your staff may feel regarding the Kane County resolution and statements to evaluate monument lands. I really feel that we have the greatest of folks to work with in your organizations and hope to see good beneficial opportunities as we continue to ride our paths along side of each other.

Thanks for all you do. I didn't mean to cast any bad light or negative feelings to you and I hope this helps.

Best Regards,

Dirk Clayson
435-616-1234

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Kane County Commission appreciation statement for local BLM employees

The Kane County Commissioners would like to express our appreciation for the local BLM employees. We appreciate the leadership of the Monument Manager Cindy Staszak and Kanab Field Office Manager Harry Barber and their entire staff. We recognize the many positive efforts of the individuals who work and live in our communities as well as the world-class leadership and work that has brought so much positive benefit to our area. We are grateful for the enriched fabric of our community that exists because of the employment resources and the many additional off duty community and volunteer activities these individuals participate in, such as: youth programs, agricultural programs, church activities, EMT, and search and rescue; just to name a few.

We would like to apologize for any negative light that may have been cast on any of these members of our community as a result of our call for review of lands and regulations within the monument boundaries. Our intention was not to draw attention to any one individual, department or program, but instead, we are more broadly seeking a review of the boundaries of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and its land management practices.

Kane County Commission statement on review of the GSENM

The proposal is a straightforward request to evaluate which lands best fit a monument proclamation as intended by the 1906 Antiquities Act and benefit from its designation as there is now 20 years of history to give context from which to examine the arguments for and against these designations. Our assertion is that much of the area within the monument benefits from its designation and should remain within the boundaries but that the inclusion of some spaces adds additional layers of regulations to management policies resulting in some primary concerns related to: 1) cultural preservation, 2) tourism development 3) heritage industry retention and expansion 4) archeological and paleontological resources and 5) environmental conservation and stewardship promotion.

We hope that the review process will consider incorporating cultural legacy activities within the area. Specifically, historical road closures, such as the 130 year old Paria canyon road, as well the current proposal to close 2/3 of the historical roads now being regularly used for access into monument lands are serious issues for our citizens. These closures impact not only residents but limit the ability for tourists to explore and engage with the landscape as well. Similarly, current group size limits (presently 12, in the majority of the monument lands), restricting OHV use on many unclosed roads and requiring permits for overnight camping unnecessarily constrain traditional activities enjoyed by residents such as family outings, scout campouts and day use by other local recreation groups. While it may seem easy to point out the abundant amount of accessible wilderness in the surrounding area, many of the locations within the monument represent a sense of place and history that is directly associated with residents' cultural well-being and modes of environmental interaction. Preserving these types of uses is a primary driver in our review of the current designations and our hope is that some modifications could be made to the boundaries and the management plan to create a better solution for our future that is both healthy for our environment and our local culture.

In addition to prohibiting traditional culture uses, current regulations that prevent any competitive activities in the monument stifle opportunities to enhance our tourism industries' shoulder season by hosting athletic events. For instance, these regulations inhibit our ability to hold a half

marathon on the paved Johnson Canyon road and require the Grand to Grand Ultra Marathon and other such events to make unusual and inconvenient route corrections to avoid crossing monument lands, effectively diminishing not only our economic potential but our visitor experiences as well. Also, to reiterate again, historical road closures will also almost certainly infringe on the capability of certain tourist demographics to access and enjoy sites within the monument lands effectively hobbling Kane County's growing environmental tourism brand.

Finally, it is clear to us that many wilderness areas benefit from monument designations, which are preservation oriented and offer additional careful review processes for objects intended to be conserved with little to no human impacts. However, current management policies don't facilitate the improvement of the lands resulting in the encroachment of pinion and juniper areas, which can lead to excessive erosion, degradation of the water tables, reduction of feed for livestock and wildlife and increased risk of wild fires. Opening some of these lands for multiple uses with active land management can serve the dual purpose of curtailing these issues as well as aiding in expanding our heritage cattle industry and providing an avenue for culturally appropriate and diverse economic growth beyond the tourism sector. Small scale, limited impact and community based livestock management and its subsequent best practices also stand to increase already existing stewardship ethic and conservation ideals among local resource users. Further, many activities, such as the current county project to stabilize the Johnson Canyon wash emergency watershed project, could be better accomplished with policy revisions. Kane County has very limited gravel resources and with the current regulations many of these resources are restricted.

These many issues are challenges because of the underlying designations of the lands as they currently are. Our request stems from the opinion that perhaps they could be better managed with some changes. We would like to explore the review of these lands and believe that a more optimum land management and preservation solution could be developed and are seeking help to find solutions to co-addressing these issues related to our cultural preservation, tourism development, heritage industry expansion archeological and paleontological resources and environmental stewardship.