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**Sent:** 2017-06-05T14:38:16-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for week of June 5  
**Received:** 2017-06-05T14:39:12-04:00  
[Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for week of June 5.docx](#)  
[FY2017 Tracking Spreadsheet.xlsx](#)

Hi Chris, Nikki, and Sally - the Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for the week of June 5 and the WO410 tracking spreadsheet are attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

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**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

**June 2017  
Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot  
WO-410 RMP and EIS Review**  
Updated 06/05/17

**Chris McAlear**  
Assistant Director (WO-400)

#### **RMPS AND PROJECTS WITH ISSUES TO ELEVATE/DIRECTORS PRIORITIES**

- **Sonoran Desert National Monument PRMP-A/FEIS.** Arizona.
  - **No issues.**
  - Amendment is focused on target shooting. **This amendment has a court ordered deadline (ROD by 9/30/17).**
- **Challis, Salmon, Upper Snake RMP Prep Plan.** Idaho.
  - **Update:** WO410 provided follow up comments to the responses to WO feedback (May 19), requesting data and GIS funding needs for National Trails be identified in the prep plan and following up on a WSR comment that was not responded to re: if USFS and BLM coordination on joint WSR studies would be considered. **WO410 has not received the response to comments.**
- **Appalachian Basin RMP Prep Plan.** Eastern States.
  - **Update:** WO410 provided feedback on the prep plan on March 10, 2017 (NSHT and WSR should be addressed if located in the planning area). **WO410 has not received the response to comments.**
- **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument administrative draft MMP-A/DEIS.** Utah.
  - **No issues.**
  - **Update:**
    1. WO410 coordinated with the UTSO and WO210 about the use of "in balance" language and agreed the notice briefing paper and section 2.6.1 of the EIS would be updated to change the words "in balance" to "consistent with".
    2. GSENM clarified that per the MMP, nothing in the land use plan amendment prevents the use of livestock as a vegetation management tool.
  - WO410 surnamed **DTS# 1471**, NOA for the GSENM MMP-A/DEIS, on April 14. **NOA package has not reached WO400.**
- **DTS# 1624. Notice of Closure, Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument.** New Mexico.
  - Closure notice received on June 2, 2017. **Surnamed on June 5.**
- **DTS# 1608. NOI to Prepare an Environmental Assessment to Reconsider the ROD Approving Segments 8 and 9 for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.** Idaho.
  - Surnamed by WO410 on May 22. **NOA package has not reached WO400.**
- **DTS# 1527. NOA of the DRMP and DEIS for the Cedar City Field Office Planning Area.** Utah.
  - Surnamed by WO410 on May 2. **NOA package has not reached WO400.**

- **DTS# 1542. NOI to Amend the RMP for the Ukiah Field Office, California and Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment for the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.** California.
  - Surnamed by WO410 on May 2. **NOI package has not reached WO400.**
  - **Update:** the BLM Federal Register Notices update for June 1 indicates that the NOA is on hold at California's request.
- **DTS# 1545. NOA of the Draft RMP and DEIS for the BLM Carlsbad Field Office, New Mexico.**
  - **Update:** WO210 is holding the NOA while the Carlsbad FO revisits the alternatives. Updates to the DRMP/DEIS will come to the WO for review. WO212 has indicated that New Mexico will request a schedule change of an additional 1-2 years for the RMP.
- **Section 368 Energy Corridor Region 1 draft review report.** Southern California, southern Nevada, and western Arizona.
  - **Update:** Checked in with WO301 to determine if follow up is needed re: WO410 comments (submitted April 14, 2017) or the updated conflict maps. WO301 indicated no follow up needed at this time.
  - **Issues:** The draft review report addresses National Trails in accordance with outdated policy. This issue has been addressed with WO301 with follow-up occurring.
- **Donlin Natural Gas Pipeline.** Alaska.
  - **No update.**
  - Meeting with BLM Alaska was held on February 27 to discuss State Patent lands of concern within the Donlin project, specific to the Iditarod National Historic Trail. Although it is not feasible to get a ROW reservation for affected townships, BLM Alaska is working to get comments into NEPA for the project, including mitigation for impacts to the NHT.
- **Verde Transmission ADEIS.** New Mexico.
  - **Issues:** Potential impacts to WSR and National Trails.
    - Proposed route crosses Rio Grande River. Eligible and suitable WSR streams in area including additional segments of the Rio Grande WSR.
    - Project would cross the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT and Old Spanish NHT.
  - **Next milestone is review of ADEIS (TBD). Any review is to be coordinated through New Mexico as amendment is not on WO210 priority list for WO review.**
  - **Update:** Scoping Report is being prepared. Scoping indicates opposition to project.
- **Mancos Shale RMP-A NOI, Farmington, New Mexico.**
  - **Issues: Unknown** but WO410 is tracking because the RMP-A proposes to amend four decision types including lands with wilderness characteristics and will analyze potential impacts from oil and gas decisions to the Old Spanish NHT (RMP decisions for the NHT will not be made).
  - **As the RMP-A/EIS moves forward (alts development, impact analysis, etc.). WO410 will participate to ensure that the National Conservation Lands units are adequately considered.**
  - **Update:** draft alternatives will be completed this summer. Public release of the DRMP/DEIS is not anticipated until calendar year 2018. NMSO will coordinate with WO210 on WO review.

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| UPCOMING BRIEFINGS (NEXT 30 DAYS) |
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- **Sonoran Desert National Monument PRMP-A/FEIS. Arizona.**
  - **Combined AD/Director's Brief TBD, anticipated week of June 12.** Staff pre-brief held on June 5.
- **Cedar City DRMP/DEIS. Utah.**
  - **AD Brief TBD.** Staff pre-brief was held May 23.
  - **Update:** Coordinating with WO212 re: clarifying establishing WSA as ROW avoidance/exclusion area.
  - **No issues.** 259,975 acres contain wilderness characteristics (16 areas).
    - Prioritize other uses on 190,545 acres (73%) while not protecting wilderness characteristics based on mining claims with anticipated development and other resource management priorities, mainly multiple vegetation treatments for restoring habitat from pinion/juniper encroachment.
    - 69,430 acres (27%) would be managed to protect wilderness characteristics as a priority over other multiple uses. Protective allocations include VRM class II, ROW exclusion, NSO for leasable minerals, recommended withdrawal for locatable minerals.
- **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument administrative draft MMP-A/DEIS. Utah.**
  - **AD Brief TBD.** Staff pre-brief was held April 25.
  - **No issues.** 471,700 acres contain wilderness characteristics. The draft MMP did not specifically address management of lands with wilderness characteristics, however these lands receive incidental management in the following zones:
    - The primitive zone (281,800 acres) allows for an undeveloped, primitive, and self-directed visitor experience without mechanized or motorized access.
    - The outback zone (149,600 acres) is intended for an undeveloped, primitive, and self-directed visitor experience, while allowing motorized and mechanized access on designated routes. Facilities are rare and are provided only when needed for resource protection.
    - The remaining lands with wilderness characteristics (40,300 acres) are in the front country and passage zones which contain more facilities and are the focal points for visitation.
- **Lewistown DRMP/DEIS. Montana.**
  - **TBD.**
  - **No issues.** 202,730 acres contain wilderness characteristics.
    - Prioritize other uses on 70,000 acres while not protecting wilderness characteristics. Underlying prescriptions include open to mineral material sales, non-energy leasables, cross-country mechanized travel, fluid minerals with minor constraints (CSU), and livestock; limited to designated routes yearlong; 400 acres of ERMA prescription (potentially); and mostly VRM III.
    - 30,000 acres would be managed to minimize impacts to wilderness characteristics while managing for other uses (13,000 acres of ACECs and approximately 15,000-20,000 acres where actions are in place to protect GRSG).
    - 100,410 acres (49%) would be managed to protect wilderness characteristics as a priority over other multiple uses.
- **Carlsbad Field Office DRMP/DEIS. New Mexico.**
  - **TBD.**

- **Update:** WO212 has indicated Carlsbad anticipates a 1-2 year delay and New Mexico is submitting a schedule change request for the plan.
  - **Issue:** Discrepancies in acreages for lands with wilderness characteristics was found in DRMP/DEIS and range from 24,072 to 41,772 acres. **Carlsbad FO is revisiting the alternatives.**
  - **WSR rationale:** The Delaware River segment was not included in the Preferred Alternative because this area has been identified as an area with high oil/gas development potential. Portions of the Delaware River segment are currently leased for oil and gas development and are surrounded by state lands. Much of the Delaware River segment carries protective allocations associated with the proposed Gypsum Soils ACEC which is included in the Preferred Alternative C.
- **Rio Puerco PRMP/FEIS.** New Mexico.
    - **TBD.**
    - **No issues.** There are seven areas totaling 37,524 acres of wilderness characteristics.
      - Prioritize other uses on 1,663 acres (4%) while not protecting wilderness characteristics.
      - 6,920 acres (18%) would be managed to minimize impacts to wilderness characteristics while managing for other uses. Travel limited to designated routes, closed to leasable minerals, avoid for saleable minerals and ROW, minimizing impacts and requiring use of existing routes for forest product removal, and VRM III.
      - 28,941 acres (77%) would be managed to protect wilderness characteristics as a priority over other multiple uses. Travel would be closed except as authorized, closed to leasable and saleable minerals, no new ROWs, closed to forest product removal, and VRM II.