

To: Nikki Moore[nmoore@blm.gov]; Sally Butts[sbutts@blm.gov]
From: Nelson, Britta
Sent: 2017-06-30T17:44:59-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for the week of July 3
Received: 2017-06-30T18:44:35-04:00
[FY2017 Tracking Spreadsheet.xlsx](#)
[Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for week of July 3.docx](#)

Hi Nikki and Sally, the Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for the week of July 3 is attached for us to go over at Monday's check in. The WO410 tracking spreadsheet is also attached.

Do we need to use a call line for check in?

Thanks and have a great weekend!

Britta Nelson, M.P.A., Program Analyst
National Conservation Lands (WO-410)
Bureau of Land Management
303.236.0539



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

**July 2017
Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot
WO-410 RMP and EIS Review**
Updated 07/03/17

Chris McAlear
Assistant Director (WO-400)

RMPS AND PROJECTS WITH ISSUES TO ELEVATE/DIRECTORS PRIORITIES

- **DTS# 1624. Notice of Closure, Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument.** New Mexico.
 - Surnamed by WO410 on June 5. **NOI package has not reached WO400.**
- **DTS# 1545. NOA of the DRMP and DEIS for the BLM Carlsbad Field Office,** New Mexico.
 - Surnamed by WO410 on June 8. **NOI 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# 1471. NOA for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument administrative draft MMP-A/DEIS.** Utah.
 - Surnamed by WO410 on April 14. **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 indicates the NOA is on hold at California's request.
- **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.**
- **Boardman to Hemmingway ROD.** Oregon, Idaho.
 - **Update:** The last update was provided for the Renewable Energy and Transmission dashboard on June 6, 2017 and indicates that coordination is continuing with the WO on the NOA for the ROD and incorporating compliance discussions with the Executive Order of March 28, 2017 and Secretarial Order 3349 of March 29th, as it relates to mitigation. **It is unknown if WO410 will participate in the process.**
- **Environmental Assessment to Reconsider the ROD Approving Segments 8 and 9 for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.** Idaho.
 - **Update:** The BLM is directed, through the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA Boundary Modification Act, 2017, to issue a ROW for the lands described in Sec. (b)(2) of the Modification Act for portions of Gateway

West segments 8 and 9. The Modification Act moved the lands for this ROW from NCA status, stipulated that the mitigation framework presented in the Final Supplemental EIS will apply to the authorized segments, and stipulated a timeframe for issuance of the ROW. **It is unknown if WO410 will participate in the process.**

- **Section 368 Energy Corridor Region 1 draft review report.** Southern California, southern Nevada, and western Arizona.
 - **Update:** Draft recommendations were to be circulated to WO100 and 300 for review the week of June 5.
 - **Issues:** Outdated policy that categorized National Trails as 'medium potential for conflict' was used in the original draft review report. Updated solar and wind policy now categories National Trails as 'high potential for conflict'. This was addressed with WO301. WO301 indicated no further follow up needed at this time.
- **Section 368 Energy Corridor Region 2 review.** Eastern Arizona, southern Utah, and New Mexico.
 - **Update:** A schedule is being developed for the Region 2 review.
- **Lake Powell Water Project.** Utah.
 - **Update:** This is a water removal and transportation project including a proposed Hydro-power Station 1 located on GSENM. The BLM is working with Utah to perfect the License Application to FERC and to discuss the need for one or two plan amendments in the Arizona Strip FO and GSENM.
 - **Issues:** Potential Hydro-power Station 1 located in and plan amendment for the GSENM.
- **Donlin Natural Gas Pipeline.** Alaska.
 - **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:** The schedule is being revised because the public scoping period was extended. Approval of the revised project schedule is pending.
- **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.

UPCOMING BRIEFINGS (NEXT 30 DAYS)
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- **Cedar City DRMP/DEIS. Utah.**
 - **Director's Brief is scheduled for July 6.** AD Brief was held June 9.
 - **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.