

To: Butts, Sally[sbutts@blm.gov]
Cc: Fisher, Timothy[tjfisher@blm.gov]
From: Needham, Trevor
Sent: 2017-11-13T14:51:05-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: couple questions from GSEP - Utah
Received: 2017-11-13T14:58:19-05:00

Sure and sounds good, Sally. Thanks!

Also, as far as I can tell, based on Mike Nedd's recent all employee email and something the OR/WA procurement lead sent out recently, existing cooperative agreements do not need to be terminated while the WO determines any possible new format, direction, etc.

Maria Gochis, the BLM grants policy manager works remotely in the UT SO, so Aaron could likely get her to clarify things. I think it's positive for Aaron to be questioning the justification of Cindy's intent to terminate the CA/partnership, when it's been very successful.

-Trevor

Trevor H. Needham
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On Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 2:27 PM, Butts, Sally <sbutts@blm.gov> wrote:

Thanks for sharing this email and for the conversation earlier today.

I'll mention to Nikki tomorrow during our all-day leadership meeting and see what feedback she has. I'd hold off for another day in responding to Noel if that is ok.

Sally

On Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 12:24 PM, Needham, Trevor <tneedham@blm.gov> wrote:

FYI - Just returning today from being out a week without email access. I feel the need to respond to Noel, probably via phone, but I'm not entirely sure what to say. I'm not aware of any WO direction that supports what Cindy is sharing with the partner group. I believe the Partners group there has been an incredibly strong supporter of the monument and has done many great community-based, value-added things through their partnership with the monument over the years. The possibility of severing this beneficial partnership is troubling to me. Perhaps supporting Aaron in some way is the best path forward, but not sure the best way to do this. Happy to help anyway possible. I just have to focus on our director briefing on donations policy now through Wednesday morning, but after that happy to help!

-Trevor

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

From: **Noel Poe** <noel@gsenm.org>
 Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2017 at 2:42 PM
 Subject: couple questions from GSEP - Utah
 To: "Needham, Trevor" <tneedham@blm.gov>

Grand Staircase Escalante Partners has been told by our GSENM manager that the format, wording, and direction of all cooperative agreements, MOUs, the Friends Toolkit, maybe other similar documents are being reviewed by the W.O. with the intent to make significant changes. All we have heard about is if an agreement is over \$100,000, those are being reviewed maybe by DOI as well as W.O. Can you confirm what is happening with the above list of documents?

I ask because the GSENM Manager Cindy Staszak has announced her retirement on Jan 1. She is committed to terminating the GSEP Cooperative Agreement before she leaves. We have been told she will send us a letter on Dec 1st with the termination on Dec 31. Her reason for

terminating is by direction from W.O. that all cooperative agreements need to be re-done once W.O. determines the new format, direction, etc. We are arguing that it makes no sense to terminate our CA until the new guidelines come out which may be the end of January or latter, maybe much latter.

Once the new guidelines come out, GSEP will work with the Monument Manager to determine the best document for our current relationship. It will probably be a MOU because GSEP is providing all the funding in 2017 and 2018 for education, archaeological site steward, paleo lab volunteer management, and Escalante River Watershed restoration. With future budget forecasts, I doubt GSENM will have funds to help with the above 4 projects.

This is important because GSEP has 2 employees that must have access to the GSENM Headquarters building to complete their work. The GSEP paleontologist, who trains, supervises and monitors quality of work by the 22 volunteers in the paleo lab that are removing the fossils from the stone so researchers don't need to waste their time with that chore. The Site Steward coordinator needs to access a BLM computer and secure archaeological database to assign sites to 30 to 40 trained volunteers who randomly monitors over a hundred sites. Once the monitoring sheets come in the coordinator needs to report the results and enter into a database. Cindy has said that these two Partners staff must surrender their access passes and leave the building. That will be the virtual end of these two programs because the Monument archaeologist and paleontologist won't have time to train, monitor and direct a total of 50 to 60 volunteers. These are the 2 programs that get good press within the GSENM.

We have suggested a new temporary MOU for the time being, until the new guidelines come out, but Cindy says they can't do that because the MOU format is changing so they have to wait for the revisions to be approved. I am certain all the above direction from the Manager is because of retaliation since GSEP has gotten into advocacy to protect the size, boundaries, objects and values of GSENM. (I think you know media reports the President is coming to Salt Lake City the first part of December to make an announcement on GSE and Bears Ears National Monuments.)

I have talked to Aaron Curtis from S.O. but he is in meetings the rest of the week. So if you have any input on the future of agreements or advice, please share it. Thanks a lot. If phoning is easier way to respond, call my cell # that is below.

(You may not know but March 1, 2017, GSEP moved out of the two visitor centers and are now renting an office in both Kanab and Escalante. We now have 3 GSEP vehicles so we are no longer using BLM vehicles to work on 4 projects within GSENM. The new Executive Director has made a clean financial and staffing separation so there is no conflict between managing the 4 projects requested by BLM and our advocacy program.)

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