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From: Connie Simkins

Sent: 2017-07-06T16:40:28-04:00

Importance: Normal

Subject: BARNM comments 7-5-2017

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[Zinke reduce monument .pdf](#)

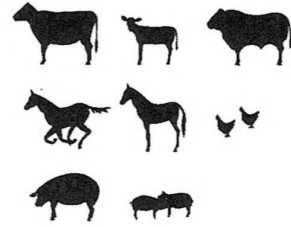
Good Afternoon Secretary Zinke and BLM

Please accept these comments per Executive order 13792

Feel free to call if you wish further information.

Connie Simkins, secretary to
Grcian Uhalde Chair
N-4 State Grazing Board

775-962-1333



N-4 State Grazing Board
P.O. Box 461
Panaca, Nevada 89042
775-962-1333
July 5, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Monument Review, MS 1530
US Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Review of Monument Designations per Antiquities Act, Executive Order 13792

Dear Secretary Zinke

Thank you for your commitment to personally visit the Basin and Range National Monument in western Lincoln County. It was very encouraging to hear you speak about building trust between your agencies and the public, during our round table in Pahrump on June 26, 2017. We appreciate your attention to our comments and issues.

The N-4 State Grazing Board submits this statement for the record. This Board is a political sub-division of the State of Nevada organized under N.R.S. 568 Grazing and Ranging and represents 130 ranching families in White Pine, Lincoln, and parts of Nye and Eureka Counties.

The N-4 State Grazing Board reaffirms and continues its opposition to this monument because of the negative impacts to multiple uses. As far back as November 2014, even prior to the July 20, 2015 designation, we joined in supporting the Lincoln County Commission's opposition to the withdrawal of 705,000 acres from multiple uses in these four valleys. The management of this area conflicts with the BLM Ely Resource Management Plan Record of Decision which mandates continuing multiple uses. This designation also disregards the Lincoln County Master Plan, and the Lincoln County Public Land Policy Plan.

Local citizens have spent several generations joined with the ranching community in building the history, customs and culture of this area. These valleys are special because of the ranchers and miners who have taken good care of it through the ages, in consideration of the climate, fragile soils and plants and the scarcity of water.

The Basin and Range National Monument (B&RNM) was created as a political favor for an art structure on some 1360 acres of Private Property in Garden Valley that is LOCKED and GUARDED prohibiting all public access. This is counter to sound management, the National Environmental Policy Act, Federal Public Land Management Act and the BLM's own stated mission to "enhance the land for today and into the future". Encouraging more traffic and visits by casual use is destructive to the land, plants, animals, and Native American artifacts.

The following bullet points were originally submitted to BLM during the monument planning scoping process in June of 2016, and are reiterated here for emphasis:

Specifically this Board indicates support for and asks the following points be made a part of the management plan for the coming Environmental Impact Statement:

- This Board strongly supports the No Action Alternative
- Do Not revise the existing Ely RMP, carry out its Record of Decision
- Assure No Net Loss of grazing AUMs occur
- Take actions to securely maintain and enhance range improvements
- Accelerate existing plans and create future range improvements in consultation with affected ranchers
- Establish comprehensive cell phone coverage throughout the Monument
- Allow access and maintenance of all existing roads
- Recognize the extremely fragile soils and vegetation and establish protocols for their adaptive monitoring and management to assure health and viability of these resources
- Provide affected ranchers inside, partially inside, and contiguous to the Monument notice of all meetings, conference calls, planning sessions associated with planning and managing this Monument
- Strictly observe Nevada water law and recognize current Beneficial Rights Water certificate holders
- Include comprehensive noxious weed and invasive species management plans
- Integrate watershed management plans and travel management plans into Monument management plan
- Use controlled burns very carefully and fully inform affected ranchers when such are taking place on their ranges
- Add site specific and time and location intense grazing to assist in controlling flammable weeds on this area
- Design grazing systems to keep historic livestock grazing patterns and migrations in place
- Keep existing gravel pits available to the Lincoln County Road Department
- Take specific care to eliminate potential for looting of native American artifacts
- Assure wildlife are not disturbed by human visitations that could increase
- Do not highlight or encourage visitations by anyone to the private property of Triple Aught Foundation in Garden Valley, or to any other privately held property and certificated water sources throughout the monument
- Plan for emergency responses and rescues of the visiting general public

The N-4 Board respectfully asks for the opportunity to continue providing comments and ideas to the planning efforts and management of the Monument now and throughout the lifetime of this designation. Please feel free to contact this Board whenever we can assist your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Simkins". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Signed by Connie Simkins
Under the direction of Gracian Uhalde, Chair
N-4 State Grazing Board

cc: Governor Brian Sandoval
Lincoln County Commission
White Pine County Commission
Nye County Commission
Nevada Congressional Delegation
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Assemblyman James Oscarson
Assemblyman John Ellison
Nevada BLM Director John Ruhs
Acting Nevada BLM Director Marci Todd
Chris Carlton, Caliente FO Manager
Mike Herder, Ely BLM District Manager