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From: Trost, Roxie
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Briefing Paper for NV State Director 05 25 17 Grazing Allotments(TB) - AZ edits.docx

Hello All,

Please use the attached briefing paper with BLM Arizona's edits. Thank you for the opportunity to review and let me know if I can provide any other information or clarification.

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Roxie C. Trost
Deputy State Director, Resources and Planning

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE NEVADA STATE DIRECTOR

DATE: May 25, 2017

THROUGH: Tim Smith, District Manager, Southern Nevada District Office

FROM: Lee Kirk, Acting Monument Manager, Gold Butte National Monument

SUBJECT: Grazing Allotments in Gold Butte National Monument

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memo is to provide a status of the grazing allotments administered by the Arizona Strip District within the Gold Butte National Monument (GBNM) and Southern Nevada District Office's (SNDO) recommendation for addressing the current grazing within the allotments.

II. BACKGROUND

Below is a brief description of the status of the grazing allotments administered by the Arizona Strip District that are wholly, or in part, located within the GBNM:

Lime Spring Allotment - Available for grazing (Arizona Strip Field Office RMP)

This allotment is entirely within the GBNM (and livestock grazing is administered by the Arizona Strip District, through an agreement with the SNDO- this includes RMP decisions on grazing management). This allotment is designated as available for livestock grazing in the Arizona Strip Field Office RMP (2008) as an ephemeral allotment. Preference for use of an ephemeral range allotment is attached to base property or base water and permitted livestock use numbers are not specified on the permit or lease because the occurrence and amount of production are not predictable from a management perspective. Grazing is authorized on a year-by-year basis when monitoring shows there is sufficient forage available. The allotment was authorized for grazing in 2016, and will likely have an application to graze in 2017. Ephemeral use has historically occurred from June through September.

Mesquite Community Allotment - Available for grazing (Arizona Strip Field Office RMP)

Portions of two separate pastures of this allotment are within Gold Butte National Monument. The allotment is designated as available for grazing in the Arizona Strip Field Office RMP (2008). The current grazing permit will expire on 12/12/2020.

Tassi Allotment – Unavailable for grazing (Grand Canyon-Parashant Resource Management Plan (RMP))

The Tassi allotment within the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is unavailable to grazing (not closed) in Arizona. The remainder of the allotment is in the GBNM. The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument RMP 2008 adopted the 1998 RMP Amendment Decision that made the Tassi Allotment unavailable to grazing in order to implement the Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan.

Mosby-Nay Allotment - Nevada portion is unavailable for grazing (Grand Canyon Parashant RMP)

The majority (over 90 percent) of this allotment is within Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in Arizona. The RMP (2008) designated the portion of the Mosby-Nay Allotment in Nevada as unavailable (not closed) for grazing. The majority of the allotment in Arizona is available for grazing.

III. POSITIONS OF INTERESTED PARTIES

The Gold Butte National Monument proclamation states the following regarding livestock grazing: "Livestock grazing has not been permitted in the monument area since 1998 and the Secretary shall not issue any new grazing permits or leases on lands within the monument."

This could affect the current livestock grazing permit holders who may apply for renewals of their existing permits or apply for the ephemeral allotment grazing permit.

A field trip to the Lime Spring Allotment was conducted on May 11, 2017, which included the Grand Canyon-Parashant Monument Manager, Vermilion Cliffs Monument Manager, Arizona Strip Field Office Manager and Rangeland Management Specialist, and the Gold Butte Acting Monument Manager. During the field trip, it was discussed and agreed that there was an oversight regarding livestock grazing in the Gold Butte Proclamation because there are active grazing allotments that are administered by Arizona Strip District within the GBNM. The group recommended the following options to be considered to address the concerns:

1. Clarify the Presidential Proclamation language or adjust the Monument boundary to:
 - a. Allow for the two mentioned grazing allotments administered by Arizona Strip District to remain available for grazing (Lime Spring and Mesquite Community Allotment). The two allotments have been authorized in the monument since 1998 (SNDO preferred option).
 - b. Adjust the GBNM boundary to exclude grazing pastures/allotments currently permitted or not closed in perpetuity – this would therefore be consistent with the language of the Presidential Proclamation.
 - c. Adjust the boundary of GBNM to exclude those areas listed in "a" above, and add them to Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, which would also be consistent with the language of the Presidential Proclamation.
2. Consult with Solicitors to discuss (b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
3. Forward these issues to the Department of the Interior to be addressed in the current review of National Monuments.

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