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**From:** Nelson, Britta  
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[FY2017 Tracking Spreadsheet.xlsx](#)  
[Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for week of May 8.docx](#)

Hi Nikki, Sally, and Tim (acting), the Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for the week of May 8 is attached. I am taking leave on Monday so won't be able to go over it with you unless you want to do it later in the week. Otherwise, let me know if you have any feedback or if I should send to Chris.

The WO410 tracking spreadsheet is also attached.

Thanks.

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**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

**May 2017  
Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot  
WO-410 RMP and EIS Review**  
Updated 05/08/17

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

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

- **Sonoran Desert National Monument PRMP-A/FEIS. Arizona.**
  - **Update:** Three week WO review anticipated to begin the week of May 15.
  - Amendment is focused on target shooting. **This amendment has a court ordered deadline.**
- **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.**
- **Craters of the Moon National Monument Proposed RMP Amendment/FEIS. Idaho.**
  - **No issues.**
  - **Update:** It was agreed to move the amendment forward as-is.
  - **This amendment has a court ordered deadline (ROD by July 2017).**
  - DTS# 1515, NOA of the Craters of the Moon NM PRMP-A/FEIS was surnamed by WO410 on May 1. **NOA package has not reached WO400.**
- **DTS# 1527. NOA of the DRMP and DEIS for the Cedar City Field Office Planning Area. Utah.**
  - **Update:**
    1. Surnamed by WO410 on May 2. **NOA package has not reached WO400.**
    2. Received the response to WO comment on April 19. Provided feedback to WO210 on April 24 re: establishing WSA as ROW avoidance areas. Checking with WO210 to confirm acceptance of comment.
- **DTS# 1397. NOI to Prepare a Supplement to the Draft RMP for the Southern Nevada District Planning Area, comprising the Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices and Gold Butte National Monument. Nevada.**
  - **Update:** Surnamed by WO410 on April 24 (with edits). **NOI package has not reached WO400.**
    - WO410 met with the NVSO and WO210 on March 22 to discuss the combining of the plans and agreed the NOI package materials would be revised to include a specific section highlighting the public scoping and overall engagement process with a focus on parties interested in GBNM and will note the WO410/WO210/Nevada meeting held to discuss the planning approach.

- **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.**
- **DTS# 1560, Notice of Temporary Closure and Temporary Restrictions for the Burning Man event.** Nevada.
  - Surnamed by WO410 on April 18. **Notice package has not reached WO400.**
- **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.
- **DTS# 1401. NOA of the Boardman to Hemingway ROD.** Oregon.
  - **NOA package has not reached WO400.** NOA not routed at Division level.
  - WO410 provided updated language for NSHT for the ROD to the Project Manager and WO210 (Jan 12, 2017).
- **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.

#### UPCOMING BRIEFINGS (NEXT 30 DAYS)

- **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.
- **Cedar City DRMP/DEIS. Utah.**
  - **TBD.**
  - **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.
- **Lewistown DRMP/DEIS. Montana.**
  - **TBD.**
  - **No issues.** 202,730 acres contain wilderness characteristics.
    - 1) 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.
    - 2) 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).
    - 3) 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.**
  - **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.
    - 1) Prioritize other uses on 1,663 acres (4%) while not protecting wilderness characteristics.
    - 2) 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.
    - 3) 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.