

**To:** Ashcroft, Tyler[tashcrof@blm.gov]  
**From:** Ginn, Allison  
**Sent:** 2017-05-17T12:13:18-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Latest draft of minerals info  
**Received:** 2017-05-17T12:14:25-04:00  
Minerals Energy OandGdata GSENM.docx

See some of the statements in the projections section to see if any might apply to BENM.

Regards,

Allison Ginn  
National Conservation Lands Program Lead  
BLM Utah State Office  
801-539-4053

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **Ginn, Allison** <[aginn@blm.gov](mailto:aginn@blm.gov)>  
Date: Wed, May 17, 2017 at 9:44 AM  
Subject: Latest draft of minerals info  
To: Kent Hoffman <[khoffman@blm.gov](mailto:khoffman@blm.gov)>

Regards,

Allison Ginn  
National Conservation Lands Program Lead  
BLM Utah State Office  
801-539-4053

**Call for Data Related to Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

1. Information on activities permitted at the Monument, including annual levels of activity from the date of designation to the present (Designation date for GSENM is September 18, 1996)
  - a. Energy annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any)
    - o The annual production of oil and gas in the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) is currently occurring in or adjacent to the Upper Valley Unit (UVU) in the north central area of the GSENM (Attachment Upper Valley Unit Map). Four wells within the GSENM are currently producing oil and a small amount of gas. The UVU was approved in 1962 and production from the wells peaked in 1972 at 183,133 bbls. In the last 20 years, 1997 2016, production has slowly declined from about 65,828 bbls oil and no gas annually to 45,538 bbls oil and 2357 mcf of gas. (Attachment: *Historical Oil and Gas Production GSE National Monument Upper Valley Field*)
    - o No coal lands have been explored or coal produced within the GSENM since the September 18, 1996 declaration. Existing coal leases were cancelled in exchange for Federal payments totaling \$42 million<sup>1</sup> (1/1/2017 \$'s<sup>2</sup>).

(b)(5) DPP

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Existing Rights of Way/Permits/Authorized 09/25/1996 05/15/2017	
Existing Withdrawals: PSR, PWR, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service Wilderness, Power Site, National Park Service, In Trust for Indians,	17
Road ROWs	19
Misc. Roads & Associated Uses Sec 107 Federal Aid Hwy, RS2477, Mineral Material Sites	0
Power Transmission Lines & Power Facilities	20
Communication Sites Telephone, Telegraph, Radio Transmission, Global Positioning Systems	15
Water ROWs, Irrigation Facilities	14

<sup>1</sup> Attached: "GSENM Coal Lease Cancellation Payments"

<sup>2</sup> [https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/WPU051?data\\_tool=XGtable](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/WPU051?data_tool=XGtable)

Oil & Gas Pipelines, Oil & Gas Facilities	5
Other FLPMA ROWs, Perpetual Easements, Federal Facilities	2
Airport	0
Permit 302 FLPMA Misc.	0
Permits Film 302 FLPMA (popular location (closed))	54

b. Minerals annual mineral production on site

- Mineral materials

- No new Free Use or Over the Counter permits issued since Monument designation. There were 8 Mineral Material Cases in the monument at designation??. A number of them were Free Use Permits granted to the county.
- Valid existing permits, including those in Title 23 (3 Federal Highway Rights of Way), continue to be in effect  
According to UGS Circular 93, January 1997, "A Preliminary Assessment of Energy and Mineral Resources within the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument", there were five small mining operations on unpatented mining claims, four of which were active alabaster quarries and one, a suspended operation for petrified wood. Annual production of the alabaster was about 300 tons worth \$500 per ton (\$150,000/yr). These claimants failed to pay the required annual filings and therefore, the claims were terminated. BLM's decision to close the claims was upheld by IBLA in March of 2008. Since that time there has been no mining law operations within the monument.

**Commented [GAL1]:** Move to the 5 years prior to designation section?

**Commented [GAL2]:** Allison to add the IBLA case, if possible.

3. Information on activities occurring during the 5 years prior to designation

a. Energy annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any)

- From 1992 until 1996, 336,313 barrels of oil were produced in the GSENM. No natural gas was produced during that time. (Attachment: *Historical Oil and Gas Production GSE National Monument Upper Valley Field*).
  - No coal was produced from the GSENM in the 5 years preceding designation. However, exploration activities and planning for mining operations continued from the 1980's until the monument

designations.

- 700+ exploration drill holes were completed to determine the thickness of coal underground
- 64 coal leases (~168,000 acres) were committed
- A regional EIS for mining was completed<sup>3</sup>
- A major coal mine was planned as described in 1994<sup>4</sup>

Commented [GAL3]: Allison to add year.

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Existing Rights of Way/Permits/All Dispositions Authorized/Closed/Relinquished/Withdrawn/Expired/Terminated/Cancelled/Pending/Rejected/Void 01/01/1991 09/24/1996 (In March 1999, BLM added Case Recordation components to the LR2000 Database System; therefore, some of the pre LR2000 data may remain in the Status Database)	
Existing Withdrawals: PSR, PWR, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service Wilderness, Power Site, National Park Service, In Trust for Indians,	1
Roads ROWs	8
Misc. Roads Sec 107 Federal Aid Hwy, RS2477, Mineral Material Sites	1
Power Transmission Lines & Power Facilities	1
Communication Sites Telephone, Telegraph, Radio Transmission, Global Positioning Systems	1
Water ROWs, Irrigation Facilities	0
Oil & Gas Pipelines, Oil & Gas Facilities	2
Other FLPMA ROWs, Perpetual Easements, Federal Facilities	6
Airport	0
Permit 302 FLPMA Misc.	25
Permits Film 302 FLPMA (popular location (closed))	0

b. Minerals annual mineral production on site

As far as mining law operations (43 CFR 3809), the alabaster quarries were the only authorized locatable minerals operation (06/30/1986) in the area prior to designation.

4. Information on activities that likely would have occurred annually from the date of designation to the present if the Monument had not been designated

<sup>3</sup> Attached Title Pages: "FINAL EIS - Dev of Coal Resources in Southern Utah Part 1 Regional"

<sup>4</sup><http://www.hcn.org/issues/16/492>

The answers to this question would be highly speculative and is best answered with qualitative (rather than quantitative) data. As GSENM was designated 20 years ago, the factors affecting such projections are subject to a wide range of variables (many of which are outside of BLM's purview, such as market prices).

- a. Energy annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any)
  - o Except for the Upper Valley Field, there have been no oil and gas discoveries within the GSENM. Forty seven exploratory wells have been drilled; exploration activities were relatively sparse and cover an average of 57 square miles per well (Attachment: M. Lee Allison, page iv).
  - o An Application for a Permit to Drill was submitted for valid existing leases within the Circle Cliffs Unit. The APD was neither approved nor rejected and the lessee allowed the leases to terminate.
  - o It is reasonable to conclude that, absent a national monument designation, there could be additional opportunities for oil and gas exploration, discovery and development.
  - o Since there have been no discoveries upon which to base production numbers, estimates of the value of production vary widely. In January 1997, it was speculated that total value of coal bed natural gas and petroleum within the GSENM ranged between \$2.02 and \$18.6 billion (Attachment: M. Lee Allison, page ii).
  - o The Kaiparowits plateau contains one of the largest coal deposits in the United States. The draft EIS for the area and the Alton coal mine producing from adjacent private lands provide an example of the development potential. State and County revenues would likely have increased significantly.
  - o Absent a monument designation, the federal/SITLA land exchange would not have occurred.
  - o Recent advances in underground coal mining techniques would likely result in the development of additional large areas of Kaiparowits coal resources that were not considered minable in the 1990's.
- b. Minerals annual mineral production on site
 

Absent monument designation, it is likely that the relinquished alabaster claims would have been relocated and additional alabaster mining claims would have

Commented [GAL4]: Allison to cite.

Commented [GAL5]: Change citation to actual laws/exchanges.

been filed. According to the same Utah Geological Survey report referenced above concerning the alabaster quarries, “Over a 30 year period, the quarries should generate \$4.5 million in production.”

Furthermore, the UGS mineral report stated, “Various types of metallic mineral deposits are known to be present in the monument (figure 14). Most of these are small and low grade with uncertain likelihood of significant development.” The UGS report addressed specific minerals with known or potential deposits within the monument, but they determined at that time they were probably not commercial quality due to low, often sub economic grades and limited tonnage. Thus, it is unlikely that metallic mining would have occurred.

There would most likely be additional mineral material sites for sand and gravel and the existing Free Use Permits granted to Kane County would most likely still be in use.

**To:** Bilbao, Anita[abilbao@blm.gov]  
**Cc:** Ashcroft, Tyler[tashcrof@blm.gov]; Edwin Roberson[eroberso@blm.gov]; Jossie, Abbie[ajossie@blm.gov]  
**From:** Cynthia Staszak  
**Sent:** 2017-05-12T20:02:02-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Monument Review (IMPORTANT PLEASE READ)  
**Received:** 2017-05-12T20:02:11-04:00

Yes for GSENM. I already received a link to a google doc

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 12, 2017, at 5:20 PM, Bilbao, Anita <abilbao@blm.gov> wrote:

>

> Cindy and Tyler,

>

> I'd like to ask if you would serve as the POC for your respective monuments  
 > to provide the information outlined in the attachment. You'll see that  
 > Utah has a very short turn around of May 17 (next Wed).

>

> Please confirm and I'll send your names forward first thing Monday to get  
 > you access to the Google Drive. And if I'm missing something about roles  
 > and you all being the right folks, please let me know!

>

> Anita

>

> ----- Forwarded message -----

> From: McAlear, Christopher <cmcalear@blm.gov>

> Date: Fri, May 12, 2017 at 2:16 PM

> Subject: Monument Review (IMPORTANT PLEASE READ)

> To: Edwin Roberson <eroberso@blm.gov>, "Bilbao, Anita" <abilbao@blm.gov>,

> Amy Lueders <alueders@blm.gov>, Aden Seidlitz <aseidlitz@blm.gov>, Jerome

> Perez <jperez@blm.gov>, Joseph Stout <j2stout@blm.gov>, "Suazo, Raymond" <

> rmsuazo@blm.gov>, Deb Rawhouser <drawhous@blm.gov>, Ruth Welch <

> rwelch@blm.gov>, Greg Shoop <gshoop@blm.gov>, Marci Todd <m1todd@blm.gov>,

> "Petersen, Paul" <ppeterse@blm.gov>, Jamie Connell <jconnell@blm.gov>,

> Theresa Hanley <thanley@blm.gov>, Timothy Murphy <t50murph@blm.gov>, Peter

> Ditton <pditton@blm.gov>

> Cc: John Ruhs <jruhs@blm.gov>, Sally Butts <sbutts@blm.gov>, Peter Mali <

> pmali@blm.gov>, Nikki Moore <nmoore@blm.gov>, Timothy Fisher <

> tjfisher@blm.gov>

>

>

> State Directors:

>

> National Conservation Lands received a data call to respond to Executive

> Order 13792 of April 26, 2017 (82 FR 20429, May 1, 2017) directing the

> Secretary of Interior to review certain National Monument designations or

> expansions under the Antiquities Act of 1906, 54 U.S.C. 320301-320303 (Act)

> (see attached).

>

>

> \*The timeline for this data call is a short turnaround for all monuments,

> due by June 2, 2017, with the exception for both Grand Staircase

> Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument with an

> expedited due date of May 17, 2017\*. WO-410 needs assistance with this data  
 > call through the National Conservation Lands State Leads and from the  
 > affected Monument Managers, or the State Directors' designee, to gather up  
 > the desired information. Please review the attached word document for list  
 > of needed information and the list of National Monuments under review. We  
 > are expected to provide available data and information but not to create  
 > data or information or speculate on responses.  
 >  
 >  
 > A Google Drive document folder is being established to easily transfer  
 > electronic files for each of the National Monuments under review. The  
 > desire is to limit access to assure consistent data collection. WO-410 is  
 > asking each of the States to provide names needing access for each National  
 > Monument and the lead from your state to oversee/coordinate this data call.  
 >  
 >  
 > The two Utah National Monuments will help us to streamline the process and  
 > provide more specific guidance for the other National Monuments and the  
 > work load associated with this request. A follow-up email will provide more  
 > direction for all other BLM National Monuments under review later next week.  
 >  
 >  
 > Please provide Timothy Fisher (tjfisher@blm.gov) a list of contacts for  
 > each monument who will need access to the google drive folder \*by  
 > COB Tuesday May 16, 2017\*.  
 >  
 > The National Conservation Lands program appreciates your support in  
 > assisting with this important data call  
 >  
 > Thank you!  
 > Chris m  
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 >  
 >  
 >  
 >  
 > Christopher McAlear  
 > Assistant Director  
 > National Conservation Lands  
 > and Community Partnerships  
 > (W) 202-208-4731  
 > (C) 775-722-9539  
 >  
 >  
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 >  
 >  
 > \*Anita Bilbao\*  
 > \*Associate State Director\*  
 > \*Bureau of Land Management - Utah\*  
 > 801-539-4010 (o)  
 > 385-315-1211 (c)  
 > <https://www.blm.gov/utah>  
 > <Initial Data Request Related to Review of National Monuments.docx>  
 > <DOI ExecOrder 13792.pdf>