

**To:** Moody, Aaron[aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov]  
**From:** Younger, Cally  
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**Cally Younger** | Counsel  
Office of the Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Direct: 202-208-3027  
Cell: 202-313-8394



*[insert billing code]*

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

*[insert Agency docket number]*

**Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and Federal Lands previously included in the Monument that are excluded from the Boundaries and Associated Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and Presidential Proclamation *[insert number]*, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) and Kanab Field Office, Kanab, Utah, intend to prepare Resource Management Plans (RMP) for the GSENM-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units, and federal lands previously included in the Monument that are excluded from the boundaries. The BLM will prepare a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to satisfy the NEPA requirements for these RMPs. By this notice, the BLM is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The RMPs will replace the existing Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Management Plan, which was completed in 1999.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RMPs and associated EIS. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/utah>. In order to be considered in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to 15 days after the last public meeting. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to by any of the following methods:

- Website: *[insert full URL]*
- Mail: 669 S Hwy 89A Kanab, UT 84741

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the GSENM and the BLM Kanab Field Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *[insert contact]*, *[insert contact title]*, telephone (435) 644-1200; address 669 S Hwy 89A Kanab, UT 84741; email [BLM\\_UT\\_CCD\\_monuments@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_UT_CCD_monuments@blm.gov). Contact *[insert contact]* to add your name to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This document provides notice that the BLM GSENM and Kanab Field Office, Kanab, Utah, intend to prepare RMPs for the GSENM-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units, and federal lands previously

included in the Monument that are excluded the boundaries. The BLM will prepare a single EIS for this planning process. This document announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in Kane and Garfield Counties, Utah and encompasses approximately 1.87 million acres of public land.

On December 4, 2017, President Donald Trump signed Presidential Proclamation [*insert number*] reducing the boundaries of the GSENM to the smallest area compatible with the protection of the objects of scientific or historical interest that are appropriate for protection under the Antiquities Act. The modified boundaries of the GSENM exclude from designation and reservation approximately 861,974 acres of land that are no longer necessary for the proper care and management of the objects to be protected within the monument. Lands that remain part of the GSENM are included in three units, known as the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons units of the monument. The preparation of RMPs for each of the three units in the GSENM and federal lands previously included in the monument that are excluded from the boundaries is mandated by proclamation [*insert number*]. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by the BLM personnel; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. The issues include paleontology, geology, cultural and historic resources, travel management, livestock grazing, and vegetation and fire management, outdoor recreation, visual resource management, wildlife resources, and air quality. Preliminary planning criteria include: 1) The public planning process for the

RMPs will be guided Presidential Proclamation [*insert number*] in addition to FLPMA and NEPA. 2) Those Federal lands excluded from the Monument will remain in Federal ownership and will be managed by the BLM under applicable laws. 3) The BLM will use current scientific information, and results of inventory, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate management. 4) The BLM will strive to ensure that management decisions are consistent with other adjoining planning jurisdictions, both federal and nonfederal. 5) Decisions made in the planning process will only apply to public lands and, where appropriate, split-estate lands where the subsurface mineral estate is managed by the BLM. 6) Existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) will be managed to prevent impairment and ensure continued suitability for designation as wilderness. Should Congress release all or part of a WSA from wilderness study, resource management will be determined by preparing an amendment to the RMPs. 7) A baseline reasonably foreseeable development scenario will be developed for oil and gas and other mineral resources for federal lands previously included in the GSENM that are excluded from the monument boundaries. 8) The BLM will consider changes to the off-highway vehicle (OHV) area designations (open, closed, limited) approved through the 1999 GSENM Management Plan. Implementation travel and transportation management planning (route designations) will be deferred until after the RMPs are completed.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the “ADDRESSES” section above. To be most helpful, you should submit comments within 15 days after the last public meeting. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your

comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM will evaluate identified issues to be addressed in the plan, and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS as to why an issue was placed in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plan. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA scoping process to help fulfill the public involvement process under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other

stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: rangeland management, minerals and geology, forestry, outdoor recreation, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife and fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology and economics.

AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2

Edwin L. Roberson

State Director

*[insert billing code]*

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

*[insert Agency docket number]*

**Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Bears Ears**

**National Monument Shash Jáa Unit and associated Environmental Impact**

**Statement**

(b) (5) DPP, (b) (5) AWP, (b) (5) ACP





(b) (5) DPP, (b) (5) AWP, (b) (5) ACP



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*[insert billing code]*

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

*[insert Agency docket number]*

**Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Bears Ears**

**National Monument Indian Creek Unit and associated Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), and Presidential Proclamation *[insert number]*, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Canyon Country District Office, Moab, Utah, intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek Unit and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The RMP will replace portions of the existing Monticello Field Office Record of Decision and Approved RMP.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RMP with associated EIS. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/utah>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must

be received prior to 15 days after the last public meeting. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to by any of the following methods:

- Website: *[insert full URL]*
- Mail: 365 North Main P.O. Box 7 Monticello, UT 84535

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Canyon Country District Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lance Porter, District Manager, telephone (435) 259-2100; address 365 North Main P.O. Box 7 Monticello, UT 84535; email [BLM\\_UT\\_Indian\\_Creek@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_UT_Indian_Creek@blm.gov). Contact Mr. Porter to add your name to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This document provides notice that the BLM Canyon Country District Office, Moab, Utah, intends to prepare a RMP with an associated EIS for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek Unit, announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in San Juan County, Utah and encompasses approximately 71,896 acres of public land.



On December 4, 2017, President Donald Trump signed Proclamation [insert number] modifying the Bears Ears National Monument in order to ensure that the Federal land set aside is the smallest area compatible with the care and management of those objects of scientific or historic interest that are appropriate for protection under the Antiquities Act. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by the BLM personnel; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. The issues include cultural and historic resources, including protection of Indian sacred sites and traditional cultural properties; paleontological resources; travel management; livestock grazing; wildlife; vegetation and fire management; outdoor recreation; and visual resource management. Preliminary planning criteria include: 1) The public planning process for the RMP will be guided by Presidential Proclamation [insert number], in addition to FLPMA and NEPA. 2) The BLM will use current scientific information, research, technologies, and results of inventory, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate management. 3) The BLM will strive to ensure that management decisions are consistent with other adjoining planning jurisdictions, both federal and nonfederal. 4) Decisions made in the planning process will only apply to public lands and, where appropriate, split-estate lands where the subsurface mineral estate is managed by the BLM. 6) Existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) will be managed to prevent impairment and ensure continued suitability for designation as wilderness. Should Congress release all or part of a WSA from wilderness study, resource management will be determined by preparing an amendment to the RMP. 7) The BLM will consider

changes to the off-highway vehicle (OHV) area designations (open, closed, limited) approved through the Monticello Field Office Record of Decision and Approved RMP. Implementation travel and transportation management planning (route designations) will be deferred until after the RMP is completed.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the “ADDRESSES” section above. To be most helpful, you should submit comments within 15 days after the last public meeting. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM will evaluate identified issues to be addressed in the plan, and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS as to why an issue was placed in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plan. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA scoping process to help fulfill the public involvement process under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: rangeland management,

minerals and geology, forestry, outdoor recreation, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife and fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology and economics.

AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2

Edwin L. Roberson

State Director