

To: Curtis, Aaron[acurtis@blm.gov]
Cc: Pamela Jarnecke[pjarnecke@blm.gov]; Allison Ginn[aginn@blm.gov]; I Blocker[mblocker@blm.gov]
From: Ashcroft, Tyler
Sent: 2017-10-19T12:25:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Six Shooter project visual contrast rating
Received: 2017-10-19T12:25:31-04:00

The December 28, 2016 proclamation is still the law of the land. Until this administration that changes the boundaries or issues a new proclamation, we are required to make sure that all actions are consistent with the existing proclamation, including the protection of any identified objects. We have had discussions with Monticello on how to address national monument related issues in NEPA documents. They have several ongoing and completed NEPA documents that that have example language. At a minimum, something should be included in Section either section 1.4 or 1.5 of the document. This is an example that comes from one of the documents that I have worked on. This exact language does not have to be included, but something similar to this is appropriate.

That is my opinion- for what its worth.

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act (OPLMA) established the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) in order to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations. The NLCS includes National Monuments, Wilderness Study Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Act requires the BLM to manage NLCS units in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated. The proposal was designed to meet the objectives of OPLMA.

The Bears Ears National Monument Proclamation (2016)

The proposed action and no action alternative were evaluated for consistency with the Bears Ears National Monument Proclamation. The proposed action has been designed to minimize and/or eliminate impacts on objects identified in the Proclamation, including cultural resources.

To reflect tribal expertise and traditional and historical knowledge, the monument proclamation established a Bears Ears Commission comprised of one elected officer from the Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Zuni Tribe. The proclamation requires the BLM to “meaningfully engage the Commission in the development of the management plan and to inform subsequent management of the monument.” The BLM has presented this proposed project to the Bears Ears Commission and received support for the project.

On Wed, Oct 18, 2017 at 5:27 PM, Curtis, Aaron <acurtis@blm.gov> wrote:

Matt brought this project proposing up to 7 earthen reservoirs up to 0.5 acres each to my attention because Monticello is having some internal conversations regarding VRM that he needed assistance responding too. After a quick Ctrl+F, I realized the words "national monument," "objects," or "values" don't appear any where in the EA, nor in any meaningful way in the checklist.

I am going to set up a call with Amber to discuss the VRM situation, but could you please confirm with me that we're also going to need to raise NM considerations with them? It'd be nice if we can try to tackle everything at once. Thanks! AJC

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Blocker, Matthew (Matt)** <mblocker@blm.gov>

Date: Wed, Oct 18, 2017 at 4:50 PM

Subject: Six Shooter project visual contrast rating

To: Robert Sweeten <rsweeten@blm.gov>

Cc: Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>

Hey Aaron and Rob,

Can you help me with an email to Amber Johnson in Monticello to describe why it is necessary to complete a visual contrast rating form for this six shooter project? I have attached the EA and map location of the proposed reservoirs locations. Below is my attempt at an email justifying the contrast rating and the contrast rating process.

Hey Amber,

Thank you for reaching out for clarification on the need to complete a visual contrast rating form for the six shooter project. Of course the decision is always up to management. The visual contrast rating (VCR) process assists with the planning and design of proposed actions to avoid and minimize visual contrast. The VCR process is used as the basis for conducting visual impact assessment to characterize impacts to visual resources (i.e., the landscape) and potential viewers. The outcome confirms whether the potential visual impacts from proposed project will meet the visual resource management (VRM) class objectives and allowable level of change established for the area. For the Six Shooter project the project is located within VRM II, which the objective for class II is *to retain the existing character of the landscape. Allowed Level of Change: The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.*

The steps in completing a contrast rating form are:

1. View the project description DONE
2. Identify the VRM Objectives DONE
3. Select Key Observation Points (KOP's) FIELD TRIP
4. Prepare visual simulations FIELD TRIP

Further guidance can be found in the BLM VRM Manual 8400 and at the following website
<http://blmwyomingvisual.anl.gov/assess-simulate/blm/index.cfm>

Matt Blocker
Recreation and Visitor Services Lead
Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office
Salt Lake City, UT
Phone: (801) 539-4021

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From: **Worth, Casey** <cworth@blm.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 24, 2017 at 5:00 PM
Subject: Re: View shed analysis tool
To: "Blocker, Matthew (Matt)" <mblocker@blm.gov>

Hope this isn't too much info at once.
Thanks

Casey Worth
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Monticello Field Office
PO Box 7
Monticello, UT 84535
Phone: (435) 587 1519
Fax: (435) 587 1518

On Thu, Aug 24, 2017 at 4:38 PM, Blocker, Matthew (Matt) <mblocker@blm.gov> wrote:

Matt Blocker
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Phone: (801) 539-4021

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Blocker, Matthew (Matt)** <mblocker@blm.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 15, 2017 at 4:45 PM
Subject: View shed analysis tool
To: Aaron Curtis <acurtis@blm.gov>, "Wysong, Sheri" <swysong@blm.gov>, "Davenport, Julie" <jmdavenport@blm.gov>, mmoffitt@blm.gov, "Boivin, Emily" <eboivin@blm.gov>, Amanda Leaman <aleaman@blm.gov>

Here are instructions on how to use the viewshed analysis tool in Google Earth. You can also

do 3D models

Matt Blocker

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