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From: Nelson, Britta
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[FY2017 Tracking Spreadsheet.xlsx](#)
[Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for week of April 3.docx](#)

Hi Nikki, Sally, and Peter - I hope you all have had a great week! The Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot for the week of April 3 is attached for us to go over on Monday. The tracking spreadsheet is also attached. Thanks.

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**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

**April 2017
Monthly Hot Topic Snapshot
WO-410 RMP and EIS Review**
Updated 04/03/17

Chris McAlear
Assistant Director (WO-400)

RMPS AND PROJECTS WITH ISSUES TO ELEVATE/DIRECTORS PRIORITIES

- **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument administrative draft MMP-A/DEIS WO Review.** Utah.
 - WO410 comments provided in February 2017 with follow up comments provided on March 28.
 - **Issues:**
 1. **GSENM.** GSENM has indicated that using livestock grazing as a resource management tool is outside the scope of the livestock grazing amendment; however, the purposes of the MMP-A include identifying grazing management practices and providing decisions to integrate livestock and rangeland management with the management of GSENM objects and other resources. This approach is inconsistent with the MMP-A planning criteria of basing the MMP-A on the principles of adaptive management and with the discussion in Ch 1 of the MMP-A which states “Under the FLPMA, the Taylor Grazing Act, and other applicable authorities, the BLM may manage grazing use—even the use that existed in 1996—to protect the resources identified as monument objects even though it has no legal obligation to do so.” This response contradicts another response which clarifies that the monument would be used as a lab for innovative grazing.
 2. **GSENM.** GSENM indicated that clarification would be provided on the use of monument lands as a lab for innovative grazing. This response contradicts the GSENM comment response that using grazing as a resource management tool is outside of the scope of the livestock grazing amendment.
 3. **National Trails.** Projected lack of adverse impacts to Old Spanish NHT resources should be disclosed within the NEPA document.
 - **DTS# 1471, the NOA for the GSENM MMP-A/DEIS, is under review by WO410 (WO410 Review DD: April 4).**
- **WO review of the Craters of the Moon National Monument Proposed Plan Amendment/FEIS.** Idaho.
 - Comments due April 3.
 - No outstanding issues from the DRMPA/DEIS. Per a May 2016 discussion with WO210 and Idaho, Idaho agreed to strengthen the rationale for the levels of grazing, clarifying that grazing would be used as a restoration method and making clear what data the BLM is relying on, and emphasizing compliance with the WSA policy.
 - The planning area is a National Monument that contains lands with wilderness characteristics and a study trail.
 - **DTS# 1515. NOA of the Craters of the Moon National Monument PRMP-A/FEIS is in DTS but has not reached WO410.**
- **WO review of the Section 368 Energy Corridor Region 1 draft review report.** Southern California, southern Nevada, and western Arizona.
 - WO review of draft report is scheduled for March 27-April 14, 2017.
 - **Issues:** National Conservation Lands have been identified as an issue within the draft report for some energy corridors.
- **DTS# 1527. NOA of the DRMP and DEIS for the Cedar City Field Office Planning Area.** Utah.
 - **NOA is routing in DTS but has not reached WO410.**
 - **No issues.** Planning area contains lands with wilderness characteristics, WSA, NSHT, and WSR.

- **DTS# 1401. NOA of the Boardman to Hemingway ROD. Oregon.**
 - **NOA 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).
- **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)
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- **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. **Following up with WO210.**
 - **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 outstanding 410 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.